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MAZADA TOURS



Ellen Vegh, the Netherlands representative at the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, hands a flag to a youngster who arrived yesterday on the 50th ICEJ-sponsored immigrant flight from Kiev. Story, Page 12. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

Labor MKs call on Rabin to send IDF back into Gaza

SIX Labor MKs are calling on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to order the IDF to return to Gaza.

According to Eli Dayan, Shlomo Buhbut, Emanuel Zissman, Sallah Tarif, Rafi Elul, and Yoram Lass, the IDF should hit Hamas and Islamic Jihad cells.

In an Israel Radio interview last night, Dayan said the security situation in Gaza is "intolerable." He said although the Palestinian Authority appears to have made an effort to combat terror recently, it had not done enough.

"We can't just rely on the Palestinian Authority any more. In our opinion, Islamic Jihad and Hamas extremists must be made to realize that there is a possibility the IDF will reach them wherever they are, and that there is no asylum for terrorists," Dayan said.

He said expressions like "victims of peace" heard after every terror attack are worthless, and Labor needs to take real action if it is to be reelected.

He denied the Labor MKs are helping the Likud by opposing Rabin's policy. "When talking about these things, it's not a matter of this or that party. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure the security of anyone who travels on the roads in the autonomous areas and also of the settlers who live there."

"We will continue to demand that the Palestinian Authority take control of the area, and we will help it if necessary. The PA

LIAT COLLINS and DAVID RUDGE

should risk even the threat of a civil war with its so-called brethren, who want to destroy the peace process and harm the constructive Palestinians," he said. The Labor Knesset faction is to receive a security briefing from Rabin today.

Separation plan presented to Rabin
Page 2

Meanwhile, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy reportedly told the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is gradually coming to realize that terror threatens both his rule in Gaza and the peace process.

But, he said, Arafat does not yet feel threatened enough to make him change his policy regarding extremist groups. Saguy said that a crackdown on Hamas and Islamic Jihad would not cause civil war in Gaza.

Saguy said that the two attacks at Kfar Darom and Netzarim were probably the result of cooperation between Hamas and Islamic Jihad, although there is no concrete evidence of this.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that the negotiations with the Palestinians must be halted if murderous attacks continue, Israel Radio reported. Either Arafat controls Gaza 100 percent or the talks must be stopped, Ben-Eliezer said.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid expressed satisfaction over the latest measures by the Palestinian Authority to crack down on Islamic extremists. "First and foremost, I regret that these steps were not taken before the attacks, but I'm satisfied by the fact that they are being taken now," Sarid told reporters.

"From the information we have received we understand that these are unprecedented measures against Hamas and Islamic Jihad [as organizations], but we do against the terrorists, and the Palestinian Authority has to fulfill its obligations in this respect," he said. He maintained that the PA had not done its utmost to curtail the terrorist organizations before, but had taken "significant steps" in the past few days.

"We had specific demands, one of which was to bring terrorists to trial and that was done yesterday, and this is how it should be," said Sarid. "If it is clear to us that these are not one-time acts, but are part of a determined and consistent policy, then I think the chances of concluding the negotiations by July 1 and implementing them not later than this autumn will improve."

At the Likud's request, the Knesset will convene today for a special session, despite being in recess, to discuss the deterioration of the security situation. The Likud is demanding that Rabin tell Arafat that negotiations with the PLO are being stopped because the PA is incapable of preventing acts of terrorism against Jews.

Hamas: PA has crossed a 'red line'

Warns Rabin to prepare coffins for soldiers and settlers

JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

HAMAS warned the Palestinian Authority yesterday that it had crossed a "red line" as police continued to crack down on Islamic radical groups.

For the second time in two days, the new "state security court" summarily tried and sentenced an Islamic Jihad activist for planning attacks against Israelis. Omar Shalah, 29, from Gaza's Shajaiyeh neighborhood, was convicted of training suicide bombers and received a 25-year sentence, PA Attorney-General Khaled Kidre said.

Police arrested up to 50 more activists, bringing the number arrested over two days to more than 200. They raided Hamas charitable offices in Deir el-Balah, next to Kfar Darom, confiscating phones, faxes, computers and files.

Freih Abu Meidan, the PA Justice Minister, promised a partial confiscation of weapons. "We are going to start, maybe next week, to disarm and to collect all the rifles and maybe we are going

to let them keep only pistols or personal weapons," he told reporters.

Planning Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters in Jerusalem that weapons would be confiscated, but he did not anticipate raids on private homes.

The steps, preliminary as they are, suggested a tougher Palestin-

ian approach to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and unleashed threats from Hamas that it would attack both the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

On Monday night, gunmen fired at the home of a Palestinian intelligence chief, Gen. Misa Arafat, wounding a bodyguard in the leg. Police opened fire in the

Zaitoun neighborhood of Gaza yesterday when they encountered resistance to arrests they were making. Residents showed reporters where bullets had struck a wall and smashed windows. Israeli flags were burned in some places.

A Hamas leaflet issued late Monday warned that unless the arrests and trials stopped, Hamas would "increase our strikes against the enemies of Allah, the enemies of humanity, the Jews."

Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's military wing, warned Israeli settlers to leave or "our land will become your graves." It called on Prime Minister Rabin to "prepare as many coffins as possible for his soldiers and his settler pigs because our response toward these arrests will be against our primary enemy and it will come as soon as possible and in the midst of the Zionist entity [Israel]."

In Amman - where Hamas now has some of its chief ideological leaders - a statement by (Continued on Page 12)

'Bombings had 'Engineer's' hallmark'

HAMAS bomb-maker Yehia Ayyash, "the Engineer," was responsible for the two suicide car-bombs which killed eight people in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to a report presented to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday by the security services, Channel 1 reported last night.

The report, based on the initial probes, also said that the two bombings were coordinated.

The conclusion that Ayyash, or perhaps one of his pupils, was responsible, is based on the way the explosives were prepared, which was the same as that in others bombings attributed to Ayyash. (Iim)

Arafat takes a first step to combat terror

COMMENT
JON IMMANUEL

ALTHOUGH Yasser Arafat has initiated unprecedented steps against Islamic extremists, it is too early to tell whether he has fired the first shots from the bow of his *Altalena*.

The most significant action is the sentencing of two Islamic Jihad activists and the assurance of more trials to come, including that of Jihad's most prominent spokesman in Gaza - Abdullah Shami - next Sunday. The sentences were severe and clearly meant to shock.

Despite veiled threats by Hamas of civil war, the young Fatah activists who form the backbone of Arafat's supporters seem to be backing his tougher stance. In the past, this was not always the case.

Sufian Abu-Zayde, head of Fatah's Israel

desk, has in the past warned Israel not to expect the Palestinian Authority to turn on Hamas at the risk of splitting Palestinian society. But yesterday, he seemed reconciled to the current crackdown. Asked if the crackdown was just window dressing, he defended it.

"What happened today never happened in the past. A Palestinian was judged in a Palestinian court for making attacks against Israel," he said.

On one hand, the Islamic Jihad activists who have been brought to trial are easier to

attack than Hamas, a much larger organization. On the other, this may make little difference, as coordination between the two organizations on the street level is closer than it has ever been. Both participated in Sunday's double suicide bombing in Gaza, and Hamas has taken the lead in issuing threatening leaflets against the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

The arrest of 200 or more activists is in itself less significant, since they might all be released within days and none is known to belong to the armed wings of Hamas or Jihad. Peace Watch, a monitoring group, counts 800 arrests in 11 roundups since last August, including many people arrested two or three times. Almost all have been released. (Continued on Page 2)

'Chametz goy' turns out to be Jewish

AHMED Mugarbi, the non-Jew who for years bought the nation's *chametz* from the chief rabbis before Passah, has been found to be the son of a Jewish mother.

The discovery, which shocked the rabbis, forced them to find a "kosher Gentile" to sell the *chametz* to, and Jerusalem businessman Salim Daoud agreed to fill in for Mugarbi at the sale, scheduled for tomorrow at Heichal Shlomo.

At a ceremony there yesterday, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, filling in for the Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who is in China, authorized the chief rabbis to sell the nation's *chametz*. (Iim)

Six people get organs from Alisa Flatow

JUDY SIEGEL

ORGANS from Alisa Flatow, 20, the student from New Jersey who died in the Kfar Darom bus bombing, were transplanted into six people in four hospitals around the country yesterday. Each of the hospitals said the operations went as expected.

In Jerusalem, Sgt. Avraham Arditi, who died Monday of wounds suffered in the bombing, was buried in the Mt. Herzl cemetery. Mayor Ehud Olmert delivered a brief eulogy, and Arditi was carried to his final resting place by comrades from the Givati Brigade.

Flatow's parents, Rosalyn and Steven, consulted with Rabbi Moshe Tendler, a medical ethicist and biology professor at New York's Yeshiva University, before deciding to donate their daughter's organs. Tendler, an enthusiastic advocate of organ transplantation, queried them about her condition and, after hearing the doctors' report that her brain stem no longer functioned, encouraged them to go ahead.

After a heart, liver, two lungs, two kidneys and pancreas were removed at Soroka Hospital in Beer-sheva, where she died, her body

was flown back to New Jersey for burial.

US President Bill Clinton on Monday expressed sympathies to the Flatow family.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton also stressed that "this death is a poignant reminder that the enemies of peace sometimes know no boundaries as they inflict their terrorist outrages on those who seek peace and seek to live in peace," according to Reuters.

A 23-year-old resident of Moshav Revaha, near Ashkelon, received Alisa's liver in a 10-hour operation at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

Her heart was transplanted at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva into a 56-year-old man from the center of the country.

The man who received Flatow's heart had been waiting more than a year for one, said Dr. Bernardo Vidne, head of cardiac surgery at the hospital.

"The heart saved his life," Vidne said. "I think the most im-

portant thing is to thank the family that went through this tragedy. Despite their pain, they had the willingness to do this."

One lung was transplanted at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer into Malka Nir, 49, who lives in the center of the country. It was her second lung transplant; she had received one several years ago in London, but during the past year rejection set in and she needed another. The recipient of the other lung, also at Sheba, was Moshe Yamin, 64, of Jerusalem.

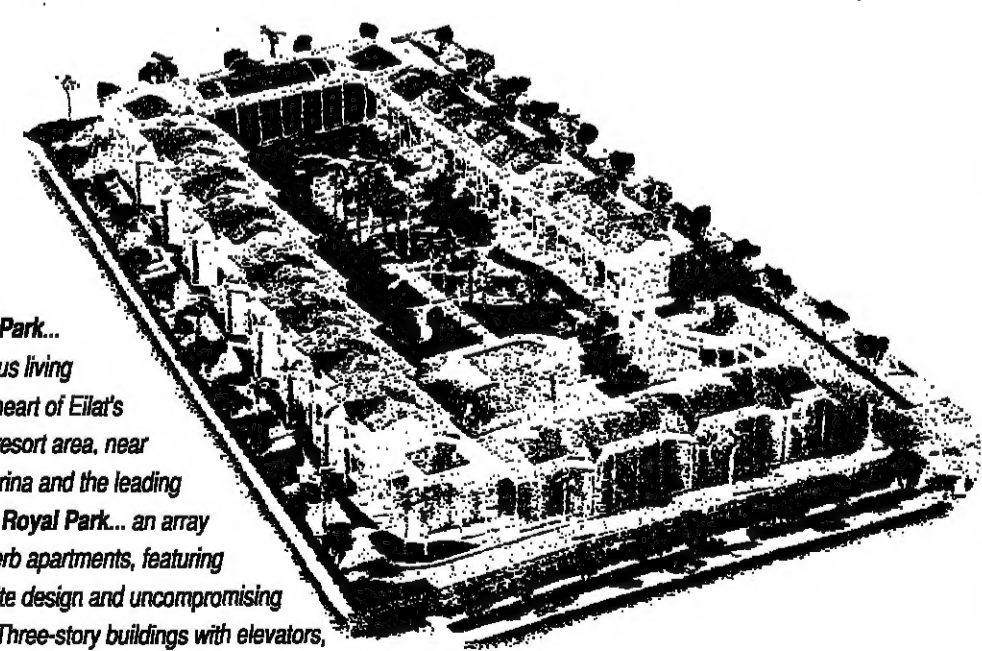
"I saw her picture in the paper and my heart hurt for her," his wife Esther Yamin told AP. "We thank the family that saved my husband."

The kidneys were transplanted at Soroka Hospital into Arye Mendelson, 43, of Beersheva, and Sorana Shmulevich, 42, of Bat Yam, who also received the pancreas.

Soroka surgeons also removed Alisa's corneas, which will be transplanted at a later date. Meanwhile, 26 victims of the terror attacks were still being treated in four hospitals; three were discharged; and all are stable and recovering from their wounds.

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Total closure not viable, Shahal reports to Rabin

TOTAL and permanent closure of the territories is the most effective method of significantly reducing the possibility of terror attacks, according to the committee set up by Police Minister Moshe Shahal on devising ways to achieve separation.

Shahal yesterday presented the committee's recommendations to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but conceded that while total closure has proven effective, it is not viable because of political and economic constraints.

Therefore, Shahal told Rabin, the committee came up with what it believes to be the next best alternative - creating a "separation sphere," with eight checkpoints located several hundreds of meters east of the Green Line.

"Entry by Palestinians will be restricted to those with permits and only through these passages, which will be manned by border policemen. Anyone entering Israel through a different route will be considered suspicious," Shahal said.

The separation sphere will be monitored by a variety of electronic surveillance devices, including radar and night-vision equipment. Only a small part of the line will be fenced.

ALON PINKAS
and BILL HUTMAN

According to police sources, the total cost of establishing the sphere in Judea and Samaria would be NIS 587 million for construction, and an annual operating cost of NIS 149.

In the Gaza strip, the construction would cost NIS 123m. and the annual operating cost would be NIS 145m.

In Jerusalem, which the committee emphasized as being of particular complexity, the recommendation is to open three more police stations in Arab areas. The cost of separation in Jerusalem is estimated at NIS 102m.

A final decision on the plan is still far off, government sources said.

The sources said that in addition to presenting the plan, Shahal recommended keeping the number of Palestinians issued permits to enter Israel to a minimum for the near future, as this would ease the operations of security forces.

Shahal maintains that Hamas and Islamic Jihad will try to carry out suicide attacks in Israel if the closure is lifted, the sources said.

The separation plan presented

to Rabin is a trimmed down version of the one originally devised by the committee, but found to be too expensive.

Most of the fences and high-tech equipment originally called for have been scrapped, at least for the time being, according to the sources.

Shahal hopes by trimming out many of the more expensive elements, the more economical plan can be immediately implemented.

The Finance Ministry is expected to present its opinion Rabin to after Pessah. The ministry opposed Shahal's original plan on the grounds it was too expensive.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh opposed the recommendations and said that there were better and more efficient ways to spend government money to increase Israel's security.

Yesterday, the army eased the travel ban on a road it closed to Arab vehicles in Gaza after Sunday's suicide attacks.

An army spokeswoman said Palestinian vehicles with several passengers or more would be allowed to travel on the road near Kfar Darom. A road passing near Netzarim will remain closed to Palestinians, she said.

Labor MKs want to offer incentives for Gush Katif settlers to leave

LABOR MKs Haggai Merom and Yossi Katz announced yesterday they will try to push a proposal through the Labor party to give Gush Katif settlers compensation if they willfully leave their

HERB KEINON

settlements. Similar ideas were raised last year after the Hebron massacre at the Machpela Cave, and Merom and Labor MK Avraham Burg even set up a hot line in the Knesset where interested settlers could call and give their names.

The idea was later dropped, and the hot line closed down. Peace Now activists said at the time that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had torpedoed the idea, and claimed he wanted to keep the settlements as a negotiating card.

"I am used to the idea that when you fight for something, you have to do it over time, it is not always accepted at first," Merom said.

Merom said that at this stage he is talking about moving settlers, not settlements, but that moving settlers now will make it easier for what he said will be the inevitable removal of Gaza settlements in the future.

Aharon Domb, the spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said that the Gaza settlements, rather than losing residents, actually grew from 5,160 residents in December 1993 to 6,215 in 1994.

Domb said that after the Hebron massacre in the Machpela Cave, the media was full of stories about how people were clamoring to leave the settlements. But in the last year the exact opposite has taken place, and the number of settlers in the territories rose by some 10 percent.

Indyk: Security outweighs Palestinian economy

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

PALESTINIAN economic advancement will continue to take a backseat to immediate Israeli security needs, new US ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk said yesterday.

Speaking on the CBS Morning News yesterday, Indyk said "there will not be, there cannot be, economic progress in circumstances where the Israelis find themselves in a situation where, to protect their citizens, they have to take actions which are having very negative economic effects on the Palestinians. ... So I think that the cart comes before the horse in this case and the security issues have to be dealt with."

Indyk, a former top White House aide on Middle East affairs, presented his credentials to President Ezer Weizman on Monday.



Demonstrators protest government policy outside Prime Minister Rabin's residence last night. (Brian Hender)

Right-wing protesters blast Rabin, Sarid

HERB KEINON
and Ilim

ANTI-government protests were held last night outside Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's residence in Jerusalem and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's home in Tel Aviv.

Some 500 right-wingers demonstrated outside Sarid's home. They carried signs, flags, and torches, and chanted slogans against Rabin and the remarks Sarid made calling for the immediate removal of Gaza Strip settlements.

Their signs read: "Yossi Sarid - a poisonous thorn in the heart of the nation," "Rabin, your brothers' blood cries out," "This peace is killing us," "Whoever signs an alliance with a terror organization is an accomplice to murder," and "Yossi Sarid - the servant of terror."

Most of the demonstrators were young local residents, while about 100 came by bus from Samaria. A large number of police force kept order.

Sarid and his family were not home, but police were to search the apartment after receiving a bomb threat.

Some 250 people, many of them holding torches or posters reading "This peace is killing us," demonstrated around the corner from the prime minister's residence.

Well over 100 policemen were on hand, but the protest passed peacefully. Among those who addressed the crowd were Likud's Tzahi Hanegbi, Tzomet's Moshe Peled, the National Religious Party's Hanan Porat, and Moleket's Rehavam Ze'evi.

Some 30 people, most of them American citizens, protested continued US support of the peace process at a demonstration outside the US Consulate in western Jerusalem.

Many of those on hand were acquainted with Alisa Flatow, killed in Sunday's blast, or Chavi Levine, who was wounded in the attack.

Joyce Lempel, a tourist from Englewood, New Jersey, and one of Levine's neighbors, said she was protesting to "express anguish and anger at a situation that doesn't seem to go away."

Lempel said the consulate was an appropriate site for the demonstration because President Clinton continues to fund the PLO. "We pay taxes, and don't want our tax money going to those who kill Jews. He should cut off all funding to the PLO immediately," Lempel held up a sign reading, "We mourn another victim of peace."

Another tourist, Gaby Gozland from New York, said he joined the demonstration because "when my kid grows up and asks me what I was doing when people were being shot and killed, I don't want to have to say I was sitting up in my hotel room. We want to show the American government, which is supporting the Israeli government, that many American Jews are against the process."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rubinstein winner chosen

Alexander Korsantiya, of Georgia, was chosen as the winner of the Eighth Arthur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition, the jury announced yesterday. Sergei Tarasov, from Russia, won second place. Ohad Ben Ari, the first Israeli to ever reach the finals of the competition, took third place.

Muashar: Jordanian debt still not erased

Jordanian Ambassador Marwan Muashar met yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and stressed to him that Washington had still not erased Jordan's debt to the US.

Muashar, accompanied by the new US Ambassador Martin Indyk, also complained that there has been no improvement regarding his country's debt to European nations.

Israel has been trying to convince the US and European countries to erase Jordan's debts. Rabin said he would bring up the matter during his visit to Washington next month.

Man drowns off Tel Aviv

An elderly man drowned yesterday evening off Tel Aviv's Jerusalem Beach.

Two wind-surfers tried to reach the man, but were hampered by the stormy waters. They were then also swept away by the waves, but later rescued by the Coast Guard, which was unable to reach the man.

An IAF helicopter was then called in and pulled the man from the water. Medics attempted to resuscitate him, but he was declared dead at Ichilov Hospital.

Brown: Rabin pushing aid to Palestinians

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has begun to impress upon members of Congress the need to continue US aid to the Palestinian Authority beyond the June 30 expiration date.

After meeting Rabin yesterday, Sen. Hank Brown (Republican - Colorado), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Middle East Subcommittee, came away with the belief that Rabin "strongly supports" continuation of aid.

Livnat wants Oz tried for 'inciteful' article

Likud MK Limor Livnat yesterday demanded that author Amos Oz be put on trial for writing what she termed an "inciteful article" in which, she said, he compared the Likud to Hamas.

The article, published in yesterday's *New York Times*, ran under the headline: "The Hamas-Likud Connection."

Livnat asked the attorney-general to examine the article, and try Oz for incitement.

Livnat also asked the education minister to remove Oz's books from the educational system and bar him from appearing before pupils.

Winning numbers and cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, eight of hearts, ace of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 4, 17, 23, 30, 44, and 45 and the additional number was 14.

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)

The real crackdown has yet to come. Brig. Samir Silsik, who serves in the office of Palestinian Police security chief Gen. Nasser Yusef, said Sunday that the only thing preventing a roundup of the hard-core terrorists is an order from the political level.

Most important is confiscation of weapons. This is a basic condition of political stability. Hamas has vowed to resist any attempt to

deprive it of its weapons, considering this a matter of survival as an armed opposition to Israel.

Justice Minister Feith Abu Meidin said yesterday that heavy weapons must be unloaded, but personal weapons would be permitted. The full-scale house-to-house raids which the Palestinian Police would need to uncover arsenals of weapons and explosives is still some way off, awaiting an order from above.

Weizmans visit wounded at Soroka Hospital

AMIR HOZENBLIT

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday visited those wounded in Sunday's Gaza terror bombings who are in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, and gave each of them a Pessah Haggada.

"We came here to visit the wounded and to share our time with their families," Weizman told reporters. "I hope to cheer them up a bit, because a person who has been wounded undergoes a great crisis."

The Weizmans especially wanted to see Reuma Gliko, a soldier who was wounded in the ankle.

"You look 100 percent," Reuma Weizman told her. "When we heard the name Reuma on television, we had to check it out. There aren't very many Reumas."

Weizman said he was happy to hear that despite her wound, Reuma planned to continue with her plans to go on for officer's training.

Weizman later talked about the possibility that the peace process

would lead to the abandonment of settlements, saying that such a move would require a majority decision.

"I want to say to the residents of Gush Katif: You should go on with your lives, and understand that if some day there is a settlement you're comfortable with, that's great. But if there's a settlement that's not so comfortable for you, understand that a majority of the country will decide what to do."

"The prime minister has already said that when it comes time for the real decisions, there will be a referendum."

Meanwhile, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu toured Kfar Darom and Netzarim yesterday.

"I promise that when I become prime minister no Jewish settlement will be dismantled. We will strengthen Kfar Darom and Netzarim with more people and give the IDF freedom to act in the Gaza Strip," he told the anxious residents.

To:
RACHEL SCHIEBER
First Senior Deputy of the District Attorney
District Attorney's Office Central District
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LETTER OF APPRECIATION

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Nat Suffrin
on the tragic death of his granddaughter

NETTA

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FRANZ SINGER

who has died at the age of 96.
The funeral will be held today, April 12, 1995, at 3 p.m.
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Margot Singer, Boston
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Nadav Singer
His great-grandchildren,
Ben, Sapir and Ran

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مكتبة الأصيل

Olmert: Gov't failing to strengthen capital

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday blasted the government for what he claimed was its failure to meet its commitment to strengthen Jerusalem and increase allocations to the city.

"I think it is simply ineptness," Olmert said at a press conference. "I don't think it is due to any personal or political differences," he added.

"Two months ago the prime minister visited the city as the municipality's guest and we presented him with a detailed report on the city's needs," the mayor said. "Since then we simply have not heard from him, neither a 'yes' nor a 'no,'" Olmert added.

BILL HUTMAN

He made the comments in a statement at the close of the press conference called to release the latest Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, for 1993.

"We haven't received anything (from the government,) not for any sector, not east Jerusalem or west Jerusalem, not for Arabs and not for Jews, not for haredim or religious," Olmert said.

The mayor has long maintained the the government plays simply "lip service" to Jerusalem. Ministers vow Jerusalem is of utmost importance, but do not follow through with real action, he

said.

The yearbook, meanwhile, reaffirmed the long-standing trends in the city's population, centered on growth being largest in the haredi and Arab sectors.

By the year 2010, the city's population should reach just over 800,000, with over 50 percent being Arabs and haredim. The projection for the haredi population for 2010 is 214,000, and for the Arab population, 250,000.

The report, compiled by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, is somewhat outdated. The municipality itself recently published population reports including 1994 figures.



Inaugurating the \$1 million Allenby Bridge border crossing terminal yesterday are (from left) former transport minister Haim Corfu, Palestinian Authority Transport Minister Abdul Aziz Haj Ahmed, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, and Airports Authority Director-General Motti Debl (Y. Elharar)

Burg opposes changing Law of Return

GREER FAY CASHMAN

ACTING Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg will oppose anyone who tries to alter the Law of Return, he told a press conference yesterday. The conference marked 50 days since he assumed office.

Burg doesn't want to lose Jews to Israel due to a change in legislation which may close the doors to a spouse or other family members.

"The politicization of religion has created a tragedy for my identity. Faith, which was the common denominator, became the number one alienator in Israel," he said.

Burg sees himself as having a two-fold role - "to accomplish the mission of aliya and to prepare the ground for dialogue."

But unlike President Ezer Weizman, who sees aliya as the only salvation for the Jewish people, Burg has no illusions that the Diaspora will disappear in his lifetime.

"It won't be that easy," he said. "As a Jewish evangelist, I believe that eventually the entire Jewish people should and will live in Israel."

But until that happens, he wants to facilitate mutual exchanges between Israel and the rest of the Jewish world, depending on community needs.

Future immigration, he said, should be based on proper spiritual preparation. "Zionism is not technical aliya. Zionism is Jewish education."

He suggested that informal Jewish education might be more effective than formal education. In this context, he presented a plan for an ambitious pilot project to bring Russian Jews intending to immigrate to Israel into close contact with Israelis and Western Jews.

Crocodile wrestling match staged in court

LIAT COLLINS

A CROCODILE wrestling match was staged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

The fight took place during a hearing on a request for a temporary injunction filed by Let the Animals Live, which is seeking to stop the Hamat Gader recreation park from holding such matches during the Pessah vacation. Hamat Gader staff brought the croc to Tel Aviv to give the judge an idea of what the spectacle involves.

In the show, volunteers are asked to grab small crocodiles by their tails and throw them on their backs. Other parts of the display involve prizing open the reptiles' jaws.

Let the Animals Live chairman Benny Schlezinger called the show "pure cruelty and violence."

"It's a terrible example of animal cruelty to show children. It's time to stop exploiting animals just for the profit motive," he said.

Hamat Gader director Ronni Lotan called the court show a "farce," and said the matches are "educational."

"Not one of the Let the Animals Live group has even seen the show. Even their lawyer admits that they have no objections to most of the show," he said.

"It's true the wrestling is not a natural phenomenon, but that's also true of dog training. There is no cruelty at Hamat Gader. It's educational. It shows children about the animals."

The judge is expected to grapple with the issue for another few days and issue a ruling on Sunday.

Kibbutzim decry Agency for renegeing on loans

JACOB DALLAL

SEVERAL dozen members of young kibbutzim protested yesterday in front of the Jewish Agency's offices in Jerusalem against what they claim is its renegeing on repayment of their loans from Bank Hapoalim.

The 36 kibbutzim, with about 2,500 members, were founded in outlying areas and are supported by the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department. The agency, members of these kibbutzim say, is not adhering to its agreement to pay part of the kibbutzim's outstanding loans.

"We work the land and have made the desert bloom, not like in Saudi Arabia or

Jordan where the desert remains barren," said Hanan Rubens a member of Kibbutz Grofit in the southern Arava. Rubens said the kibbutzim want the support promised to them by the Jewish Agency.

"We held the border with Jordan for years," said Sam Levy, Grofit's treasurer, a native of Denver, Colorado who has lived on the kibbutz for 20 years. About 20 percent of kibbutz members in the southern Arava are former North Americans.

Levy said that unless the Jewish Agency

continues to repay the debt, the kibbutzim will be financially paralyzed.

However, Jewish Agency spokesman Eldad Ada said there is no problem with aiding the kibbutzim, and that the agency's disagreement is with the Agriculture Ministry which wants it to also grant aid to other settlements in the central region, something the agency is not prepared to do.

"There is no disagreement between the Jewish Agency and the young settlements in the Arava regarding aid to settle their debts, so we don't see any reason for their protest," Ada said.

7 reservoirs planned in Negev

DAVID RUDGE

PLANS are in the pipeline to construct seven huge "catch flood" reservoirs in the Negev to meet the growing needs of farmers there.

The revolutionary project, expected to cost tens of millions of shekels, is being spearheaded by the Mekorot water company in conjunction with the Jewish National Fund. Mekorot spokesperson Yael Shoham said the first three reservoirs, to be constructed in areas north and south of Beersheba, should be completed by the end of this year.

The seven reservoirs are intended to take in flood waters diverted via a series of weirs and small dams from Nahal Habor, Nahal Beersheba and the Nitzana area.

Four of the proposed reservoirs will also be used to store purified wastewater from the Dan region and mixed with the flood water. These will be used for irrigation purposes.

Two others will also take in purified sewage from other regions which will also be mixed with the flood water for irrigation purposes. The remaining one will only hold flood water which will be filtered for drinking.

Non-Orthodox ask Shetreet to appoint their representatives to religious councils

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE country's Masorti and Progressive movements' yesterday called on Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet to appoint Conservative and Reform Jews and women to local religious councils, from his own quota.

In a meeting with Ministry Director-General Gershon Metzger, the representatives of the non-Orthodox movements said that in this way Shetreet could correct the injustice caused

by local machinations, who circumvented a High Court of Justice ruling that representatives could not be kept off the councils because of their religious outlook.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, spokesman for the Masorti Movement, said Metzger gave them no immediate answer on that issue. However, he did react positively with

regard to the immediate need to provide cemeteries for immigrants who are not halachically Jewish, and to the problem of the black list of those forbidden to married.

Bandel said the meeting reflected a new spirit of good will in the ministry. It was the first time, he said, that a director-general of the ministry met with representatives of the non-Orthodox movements to discuss their problems.

Sneh drafts new regulations for prizes in food packages

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh has signed regulations governing the packaging of food products to eliminate the risk of children swallowing small toys and other objects given by manufacturers as prizes.

The ministry said yesterday that under the new rules, food manufacturers may not place objects unfit for consumption in food packages - nor may they be imported, marketed, or displayed - unless they meet certain criteria. The ministry insists that using the object may not be dangerous; the object must be separately wrapped, in a wrapper a different color than the food in which it is placed.

In addition, if it is a toy, it must meet official toy safety standards. The object may not be made of a material that can have a deleterious effect on the quality, taste, smell, or appearance of the food. The object must be at least five centimeters wide or have a volume less than 35 cc. The manufacturer must print in clear, legible letters on the package

that the product contains an object, and to give its name.

If the object is a toy, the package must declare that it contains a "toy" parts that should not be given to a child under the age of six."

The ministry said it had issued the rules not because of specific reports of objects in cereal boxes and other packaged foods that had been swallowed by children, but to prevent such an eventuality in the future. The rules take effect on April 16; manufacturers of foods packaged before publication of the new rules will have another five months before they are binding.

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Islam's 'Martin Luther' tries to relax fundamentalism

ROBIN WRIGHT
TEHERAN

ABDOL Karim Soroush is an unassuming figure. A small-framed, bespectacled and tenderly soft-spoken man, he looks almost fragile as he sits at the big, round oak table in his office at the Research Institute for Human Sciences.

But this gentle man is shaking the foundations of a faith that claims a billion followers - nearly one of every five people on Earth. Both supporters and critics now call him the Martin Luther of Islam - a man whose ideas on religion influence Moslem societies and the outside world.

"Soroush is challenging 13 centuries of thinking," said Nasser Hadian, a political scientist at Teheran University. "He is proclaiming that understanding of religion is all relative. Put another way, no one interpretation is absolute. It is not fixed for all time and place. Who can say what God meant? This opens the door to all kinds of new ideas, political as well as religious."

Put still another way, Soroush

and an emerging group of Islamic writers and thinkers are making it possible to be Islamic without being fundamentalist, said John Voll, an expert on Islam at the University of New Hampshire.

"They are creating a comprehensive, late 20th-century world view that is, at the same time, authentically Islamic and authentically modern," he said.

Soroush and contemporaries - such as Tunisia's Rashid Ghannouchi, Egypt's Hassan Hanafi and Algeria's Mohammed Arkoun - are shaping what may turn out to be Islam's equivalent of the Christian Reformation: a period of questioning traditional practices and beliefs and, ultimately, of upheaval.

Already, Soroush's impact extends far beyond the realm of religion. His writings are framing a new debate about political change - not just for Iran but for the Middle East.

In the region of the globe that has most resisted change, few ideas are more pivotal to the fu-

ture than the relationship between Islam and democracy. Although the Iranian government has not formally reacted to Soroush's writings and teachings, many senior mullahs and officials are widely believed to feel threatened by his words.

A bimonthly magazine called *Kiyan*, which means "source" or "soul," was founded in 1991 primarily to air his columns and the debate they have sparked. It now has subscribers in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Soroush is almost reclusive. The quiet chambers of the institute where he is dean of faculty seem like a sanctuary.

"Islam and democracy are not only compatible, their association is inevitable," he said. "In Moslem society, one without the other is not perfect."

Soroush, who is in his late 40s,

speaks deliberately and in English. Among a long list of academic credentials is his graduate work in philosophy at the University of London.

"I have given two bases," he said. "The first pillar is this: To be a true believer, one must be free. To become a believer under pressure or coercion will not be true belief. And this freedom is the basis of democracy."

"The second pillar in Islamic democracy is that interpretation of religious texts is always in flux," he added. "Those interpretations are also influenced by the age you live in. So you can never give a fixed interpretation."

For the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as other Moslem societies, the practical implications of Soroush's words are profound - although he refuses to spell them all out.

in which Protestants split from the Roman Catholic Church. Soroush's arguments in effect divide the roles and powers of church and state.

Like Luther, the 16th-century German theologian who inaugurated the Reformation, Soroush is not abandoning the values of the faith. He instead argues against rigid thinking and elitism. Islam, he says, is a religion that can still grow. He believes in Sharia, or Islamic law, as a basis for modern legislation. But he views Sharia less rigidly than does the traditional clergy.

For a growing group of followers, Soroush represents the hope of reconciliation, both within Islam and between Islam and the outside world.

Soroush's *Kiyan* columns are now the center of a feisty intellectual debate. His Thursday evening lectures at a local mosque are packed.

At Teheran University's School of Theology, where he teaches the history and philoso-

phy of science, students wait in the halls just to see him.

But the movement symbolized by Soroush may be on a collision course with Iran's clergy.

"The debate is between those who accept the idea of a multifaceted, multidimensional religion that changes across time and space and those who say Islam has only one essence, and it can't be touched, and therefore democracy is alien," said Hadi Semati, an analyst at Teheran's Center for Scientific Research and Middle East Strategic Studies.

Soroush prefers to avoid comparisons with Luther.

"I'm just a writer and a thinker," he said. "I'm not thinking of doing things like Luther did."

"Although," he paused, "perhaps Luther did not know what he was doing at that time.... But I am well aware that these ideas, if taken seriously, might be of some use or help some radical change in the way we look at religion." (Los Angeles Times)

He wants to chart the future of Islam

SAHAR NASHAWAT
KHARTOUM

CHAD in baggy white robes and turban, Sudan's most influential Islamic leader waves his walking stick as he joins supporters in dancing to a song praising Islam as the savior of humanity.

"The typical ascetic religious clergy is no longer viable in modern times," Hassan Turabi says. The Moslem religious leader should be "more a reformer than an imam holding prayer beads."

Turabi, a lawyer educated in England and France, put his stamp on a recent conference in Khartoum seeking to chart the future of Islam, which was attended by Moslems from throughout the world.

The conference overrode exhortations from radical groups and urged a dialogue with the West. It also laid plans for a world Moslem congress that could give Turabi the broader voice he seeks in Islamic affairs.

The direction in which that voice will try to push the world's 1.2 billion Moslems is a source of argument. To his supporters, Turabi, 63, is a promoter of the faith, a man of gentle manner who understands the West's fears. But critics believe he is more politician than preacher, an instigator of terrorism who will further suspicions of Islam.

They point out that the Turabi who pushed moderation at the

conference also is regarded as the power behind Sudan's Moslem fundamentalist regime, which has been condemned by the US as a sponsor of terrorism.

The conference was attended by about 300 religious and political figures from nearly 80 nations. Many were from radical groups like Lebanon's Hizbullah, or Party of God, and the Palestinian Abu Nidal movement, blamed for a long string of terrorist attacks.

But the meeting put aside demands for confrontation with the West - especially the US. Instead it urged dialogue, based on the idea that the rising power of fundamentalist Christians shows that America shares conservative ideals with Islam.

Supporters say the push for dialogue exemplifies Turabi's preaching of an Islamic revival to put Moslems back in the center of the world's civilization.

"He is working for the return of confidence to the Moslem nation," former Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmed Obaidat said.

Critics see another Turabi. Egypt and Algeria maintain that under his direction Sudan is supporting Islamic revolts in their countries. Iranians fear Turabi is trying to sidestep them and offer Sudan as the new bastion of Islam.

(Associated Press)



Kamel Hassan, 10, rides his cart through the rubble of Beirut's devastated old commercial downtown. He is collecting metal wreckage from bomb-damaged buildings razed to make way for new skyscrapers and entertainment centers. (AP)

Foreign workers in Algeria face risk

JOHN BAGGALEY
NICOSIA

IN oil and gas installations in Algeria's Sahara Desert, foreign workers are being drawn inexorably into the bloody conflict between Moslem terrorists and the Algerian army.

Last week the Interior Ministry ordered four vast swaths of desert to be restricted zones with access only by special pass.

"The incidence of attacks is trickling southwards, so they are having to start getting serious about it," said one Western diplomat, commenting on the order.

Thousands of foreigners have fled Algeria since Islamists started targeting them. But few of the hundreds of oil and gas workers, including Britons, Americans, Italians and Japanese, have left.

Most, employed by a score of firms producing Algeria's oil and gas or prospecting, work in the Sahara, far from the main killing areas in the north. They are in four regions now off limits to everyone except their Algerian colleagues and local residents.

The regions, El Oued, Illizi, Laghouat and Ouargla, are the

heart of Algeria's economy. Hassi Messaoud, the biggest oil field, lies in Ouargla. Billions of cubic feet of gas flow through pipelines to Europe from Hassi R Mel in the Laghouat area; the other two regions cover prospecting fields or encircle the zone.

Gunrunners use the desert region to bring in weapons, which diplomats say are paid for by Iran and brought from Sudan through Libya. They pass through the desert to reach the Islamist guerrillas.

"The Algerians are issuing special identity cards to the oil and gas workers and for the past three weeks they have been dramatically increasing security, drafting down more troops to guard the fields," another diplomat said.

"The workers now are not allowed out of the camps unless each has got his own individual armed guard - supplied by the Algerians," he added.

The ministry said: "Movements of people and vehicles on roads passing through energy zones is limited to only national and foreign staff of companies whose activities are related to hydrocarbons, and to local inhabitants."

Diplomats have long wondered why terrorists, who have hijacked aircraft, blown up factories and schools, and destroyed power pylons, have not struck at oil and gas pipelines and installations, despite the latter being well guarded.

Some said Islamist leaders realized that if they took power they would need the oil and gas

to keep the economy afloat. These, worth \$8 billion to \$9 billion a year, provide more than 95 percent of the north African country's foreign earnings.

"Sabotage - and there has been some - has not been a problem with the oil pipes. But with gas pipes that would be different, with a blow-back causing massive explosions," one commentator said.

"There has not been a major attack before on installations," one diplomat said. "But obviously the government now fears that this is in the cards."

He attributed the clampdown to reports in Algerian newspapers of an army assault on Moslem fundamentalists in which one newspaper said up to 2,800 Moslem rebels had died. (Reuters)

Bahrain warned of battle

BAALBEK - The leader of a London-based Bahraini opposition group warned this week of a showdown with the Gulf island if it fails to make political reforms and release prisoners.

Sheikh Mohammed Ali al-Mahfouz, secretary-general of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, served the warning in an interview with a Hizbullah-run radio station in this ancient city in east Lebanon.

He said his group would call for the overthrow of Bahrain's government if Shi'ite Moslems detained for their role in recent riots were not set free. He said thousands have been held since rioting began in December.

"The popular uprising will be turned into a total showdown with the ruling authority in Bahrain if it did not back off from its

intransigent attitude," Mahfouz said.

The radio did not say when or where the interview was conducted with Mahfouz who, like other Bahraini opposition leaders, has visited Lebanon recently as part of a campaign to drum up support.

Opposition leaders have been demanding the restoration of an elected parliament disbanded by Bahrain's ruler in 1975, the release of political prisoners and a remedy to rising unemployment.

Bahrain has been hit by sporadic outbreaks of violence staged mainly by Shi'ite Moslems. The Shi'ites, who make up more than half the 500,000-strong indigenous population, also demand better job opportunities.

(Associated Press)

Syrian intellectual denies Israel any right to exist



THE following are some comments made by the chairman of the Arab Writers Association of Syria:

"The principal significance of normalization is the establishment of normal relations between the Arabs and Israel. I see normalization in general as the existence of normal ties between historical neighbors, since prolonged wars between historical neighbors cannot continue forever."

"However, when one talks about the Zionist entity, things are different. This is not a normal neighbor. They have no historical right to be in our area. The Zionist entity is an imperialist, racist plot whose goal is to become a society in the region after the name

of the area is changed from the Arab Homeland to the Middle East.

"Our culture today must struggle in order to continue and adhere to those principles based on the refusal to recognize 'Israel' and to refuse normalization with it at all levels."

Al-Alam (London) April 1.

UNDER THE sponsorship of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Authority for Political and Moral Direction in Jerusalem held on the afternoon of April 2 a large Land Day ceremony at the Institute for Science and Technology in Abu Dis under the banner: "The land is the identity and Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine."

Col. Mahmud Shafi, in charge of the Authority for Political and Moral Direction, gave a speech in which he praised the boldness of the Palestinian people and their continuous defense of the land.

He sharply denounced the activities of the Israeli settlers in the West Bank, and attacked the internal actions of Israel with regard to Jerusalem residents living

in the West Bank. He cited the taking of their identity cards and said its purpose is to empty Jerusalem of its residents.

Shafi asked that a committee comprised of all factions and organizations be established to defend Jerusalem.

Ahmed Oreia [PA minister of economy, trade and industry] then spoke in the name of Arafat. He praised the determined stand of the Palestinian nation in the West Bank, mainly in Jerusalem. He said there will not be peace as long as there is occupied land, and there is no peace as long as there are settlers and settlements. He wondered if Israel had withdrawn from the peace agreements.

The deputy head of the Sakhna Regional Council, Adnan Turab, spoke on behalf of the head of the region. He talked of the suffering of the Palestinian people inside the Green Line and their determined stand against the government policy of land confiscation.

He added that true peace is one which returns the land to its owners. He asked for the release

of all prisoners, an end to the settlements and the recognition of the Arab Palestinian citizens within the Green Line as a political minority with an existence and an identity.

Voice of Palestine Radio, April 2.

STUDENTS FROM the University of Cairo demonstrated against the participation of Israel in the International Fair in Cairo. Students from the law and literature faculties burned the Israeli flag and announced they were establishing a group called the Students' Committee for War on Zionism.

The students criticized the arrests of dozens of students from Ein-Shams University during a demonstration against Israel's participation in the fair.

State security officers broke into the houses of student leaders at Cairo and Ein-Shams universities out of concern raised by the call for opposition to the Israeli presence at the fair. Security forces arrived at the Israeli Pavilion on March 24 and arrested 17 opponents.

Elwaf (Egypt) March 26.

Newspaper gets Iraqi documents

LONDON - The Sunday Times reported this weekend that it had received documents from a defecting Iraqi scientist indicating that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons in breach of a UN ban.

The newspaper said it had given the International Atomic Energy Agency the documents from Dr. Khidir Abdul Abbas Hamza before he disappeared.

It quoted IAEA spokesman David Kydd as saying the documents had "the ring of authenticity."

The newspaper had already reported that Hamza vanished in Athens in February and quoted unidentified sources suggesting that Iraqi security officials were involved in kidnapping him.

Iraq's ambassador to Greece, Issam Saud Khalil, denied the allegation, calling it a fabrication.

A UN report due this week will also support US concerns that Iraq is bent on developing biological weapons for offensive purposes, according to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"The report will do nothing to reassure us about the concern and fears we have had," Christopher said when he met with UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last week.

Iraq immediately denied it was trying to make biological weapons.

Information Minister Hamed Yousef said such "political fabrications" by the Clinton administration are designed to keep the UN embargo in place.

The UN report is on the extent of Iraq's cooperation with a UN monitoring group headed by Rolf Ekeus. It makes periodic checks on whether Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction.

"The preview we got tends to make us feel it will support the concern and apprehension we had about the development of biological weapons," Christopher said.

Many of Iraq's nonconventional-weapons stockpiles were wiped out in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and a subsequent eradication program carried out by UN experts. (Associated Press)

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The Labor members' initiative

ONE of the most puzzling rationalizations for continuing the talks with the Palestinian Authority is that to do otherwise would hand the terrorists a victory. The identical argument can, of course, be made on the other side of the political fence. Assuring the terrorists that no matter what they do, the government will go on with withdrawal plans means that they are in a "no lose" situation. Even more persuasive is the argument that government ministers' talk of abandoning settlements assures the terrorists that the killings have been effective.

But none of these arguments is relevant. Israel must do what it deems best for its interests, not what may give terrorists cause for celebration or chagrin. If it believes that terrorist acts must stop before progress can be made in the peace process, it should say so in no uncertain terms. Britain had no trouble setting precisely such conditions before it would talk with the Sinn Féin, and it got a total cease-fire.

Making the cessation of terrorist activity, or at least a demonstration of serious PA efforts to combat terrorism, a precondition for the contin-

uation of the talks is as logical as it is practical. Supporters of the Oslo agreement should be particularly eager to insist on this course, for the peace process is doomed if terrorist actions continue.

Encouragingly, at least six Labor MKs now understand that the pattern established soon after the signing of the Oslo agreement cannot continue. Yesterday, they declared the party's ability to stay in power depends on the government's success in subduing terrorism. Their conclusions are unexceptionable. If only the suspension of the talks and firm military action - including the return of the army to Gaza to act against the terrorists - can break the cycle of violence, Israel must take these steps.

The government's penchant for hand-wringing after every terrorist incident may have made people forget, but when the "Gaza and Jericho First" plan was first announced, government officials assured the doubtful that "if the Palestinians misbehave, we'll go in there and restore order." It is difficult to imagine any worse "misbehavior," or a better reason to restore order.

A most remarkable president

IT is not easy at a time of national agony and rising anxiety to recall fortuitous events a half-century ago. But Israel owes it to themselves to note that today is the 50th anniversary of Harry S. Truman's taking office as United States president.

It was Truman who set the tone of the US-Israel relationship. It was he who established the friendship which, despite ups and downs, has been nurtured by all his followers in the Oval Office. To a large extent, the state's course as a friend and ally of the US was determined by his friendship, sympathy and personal loyalty from the moment of the state's birth.

Truman's tenure in the White House also provides instructive insight into the power of individual tenacity and the unpredictability of history's judgment. Deemed a failure during his first term in office, and with his party splintered by two rivals on the left and the right, he was expected to lead the Democrats to an ignominious debacle in 1948. Instead, he won the presidency in his own right in what was arguably the most spectacular upset in American electoral history. Nor did he do well with contemporary historians and pundits. Derided for his lackluster background, failure in business and undistinguished record as a senator, he was considered an unfortunate accident, a "nobody" who rose to the most powerful post in the world only because Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died in office.

But the passage of time has been kind to Truman. His accomplishments, both numerous and lasting, include a quick and decisive end to the war with Japan. It was he who had to make the courageous and wise decision to demand unconditional surrender from the Japanese, and to drop the atomic bomb on Japan when they refused to surrender. It was a decision which promptly ended the war and saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

Within a year after the war he established the Atomic Energy Commission to develop peaceful uses for nuclear power, passed the Employment Act to provide full employment, founded the President's Committee on Civil Rights, and three years later desegregated the US armed forces. He also initiated the extension of the Social Security program and made provisions for National Health Insurance. Probably more than anyone, he was responsible for translating constitutional concepts of equality and justice into practice. It was thanks to the impetus he gave such concepts that the US led the world in furthering the cause of human rights in the post-

war era.

In supporting Israel against stiff State Department resistance, Truman was not only acting out of personal conviction. He viewed America's post-war role with the eyes of an internationalist. He believed that the spread of democracy was the first responsibility of the world's most powerful democracy. For him, the very fact that Israel was the only democratic society in the Middle East made it a natural ally. But he also understood what some policymakers today fail to comprehend: that dictatorships must be resisted, not appeased, and that peace and economic cooperation between countries can safely grow only on democratic soil.

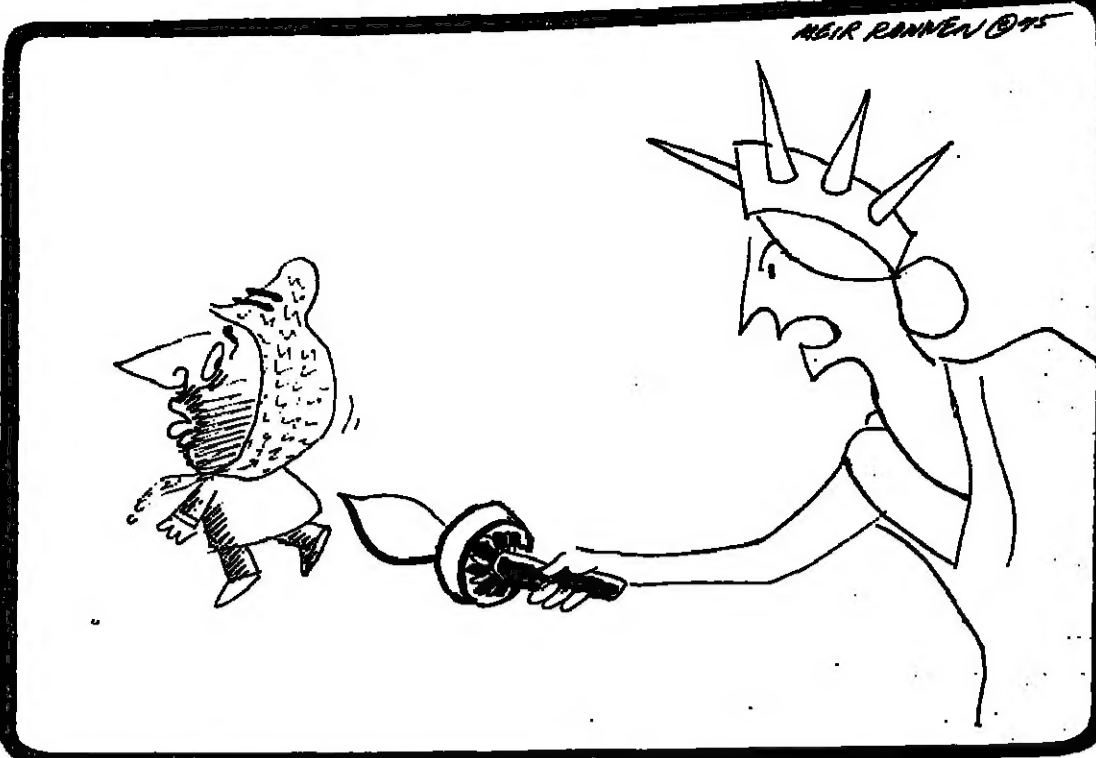
It is this emphasis on democracy as a precondition for peace and cooperation which made an unprecedented success of the Marshall Plan - the European Recovery Program. In what was the wisest and most generous aid plan in world history, America helped transform war-torn Western Europe from the hate-ridden, Holocaust-producing hell it had become under the Nazis into a peaceful and prosperous union.

There were other achievements with far-reaching international consequences: the formation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; the Rio Pact (Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance); the Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund and the Organization of American States were but a few of his accomplishments.

The implementation of the Truman Doctrine, under which communism in the Eastern Mediterranean was combated by aid to Greece and Turkey; the Berlin airlift; the build-up of American forces during the Cold War and the anti-Communist Korean War were manifestation of his determination to fight totalitarianism everywhere.

Remarkably, for a man who believed in a militarily strong US, he had healthy suspicions about military men. When he fired the venerable General Douglas MacArthur he established once and for all the inviolability of civilian control over the military.

Today he is recognized by most historians as one of the great American presidents. In Israel, whose birth is tied to his name, such recognition is particularly poignant. Despite the country's many concerns about the nation's most vital needs at this time, the government should consider an appropriate gesture which would make Israel's regard and admiration for Truman known to the American people.



A narrowing of choices

STAN GOODENOUGH

AS Israel shows increasing readiness to erode its boundaries in desperation to find an end to war, peace-process supporters are arguing more vehemently against the axiom that their state's security depends on its size. Their contention is that small pieces of land like the Golan Heights offer little additional protection in this day of satellites and surface-to-surface missile warfare.

Those resisting this point of view recall the lessons learned in the Gulf war, and especially how, after all the high-tech bombing runs directed by super-sophisticated radar systems, it took the allied forces' troops and armor on the ground to force Saddam Hussein to surrender.

Neither position is completely right or wrong. But both miss this vital question: What kind of missiles, what kind of warheads, what kind of warfare is being discussed?

For if conventional warfare is anticipated, then those trusting in tanks and soldiers are pursuing the more secure course by wanting to retain strategic territory.

If the expectation is for non-conventional war - with mass-destruction weaponry, chemical, biological or nuclear - then those advocating land-for-peace could be sound in their belief that keeping territory would not really make much difference to the outcome.

What this group may well not realize is that, by pursuing their option, they are actually increasing the possibility that the next war will be non-conventional. The very act of reducing Israel's size and confining its borders to anything approximating the 1967 lines must affect this.

It is reasoning that makes fearful sense. The smaller Israel becomes, the more its defensive options will be restricted to the non-conventional. In simple terms, a 1967-size Israel will find itself almost impossibly limited in terms

of the time and space it needs to mobilize for a conventional war.

AS LONG as Judea and Samaria and Gaza, and the Golan Heights, are under Israeli control, attacks by the Arab states can be better anticipated and more easily repulsed by conventional means. In fact, Israel's

A smaller Israel will have only a non-conventional defensive option

very presence in these areas these past 27 years has been the single most effective deterrent against such an attack in the first place.

With Israel atop the Golan ridge, Hafez Assad knows that Damascus can be flattened by conventional artillery in a matter of hours. Confronted by an Arab onslaught without these vital pieces of land, however, Israel would have virtually no choice but to go the non-conventional route, or risk immediate and complete annihilation.

Those urging the surrender of the Golan Heights to Syria - and those pushing for the creation of another Arab state in Judea and Samaria - are therefore upping the ante in favor of a non-conventional war which could finally do away with the Jewish "problem" and create a truly "New Middle East."

All the while, the Arab states are racing to end Israel's alleged monopoly of nuclear capability in the region. Egypt is building a Chinese-made, 300-megawatt reactor which, once on-line, will be capable of manufacturing four nuclear warheads a month. It is also well worth bearing in

mind the horrible reality that all it would actually take to finish Israel off would be three Hiroshima-type bombs on Tel Aviv. Casualty estimates in such an attack are upwards of 400,000. Israel could surely never absorb such a blow.

Furthermore, for Israel, nuclear war can only mean total destruction: this whether it gets in the first or second strike. The so-called Domsday machine option - where an already-raised Jewish state would automatically fire off its nuclear warheads and thereby destroy the Moslem states - offers little comfort.

The Arabs know this. And while they plot to hasten Israel's demise by increasing the pressure on Jerusalem to sign the NPT (up for extension next week) the peace process is working nicely to whittle away at Israel's borders, and at its option for conventional war.

Once back behind the 1967 boundaries, Israel will begin to suffer "strategic abuse." This is predicated on the belief that Israel, knowing it cannot survive a nuclear war, will regard making any other concessions demanded by its enemies as preferable to committing suicide.

Accordingly, with Israel out of the "West Bank" - and half of Jerusalem - and down from the Golan Heights, the Arabs will be able to demand that it also withdraw from Galilee. (The Palestinian Authority is laying the groundwork for this already, demanding that Israel allow 100,000 refugees from 1948 to settle in Galilee.)

Next, Israel will be pressured to pull out of Haifa. Again, it will comply because, again, "anything is better than suicide." And so it will continue until Israel is left with no choice but to declare its statehood nonexistent.

The writer edits the Middle East Intelligence Digest, a publication of the International Christian Embassy.

With a sneer

RICHARD HARWOOD

THE cynicism of American journalists toward politics is threatening the legitimacy of government institutions. Their contempt for the men and women involved in the nation's political life is communicated daily through endless exposes and a sneering style of reportage that prompts popular mistrust of the basic ideas of democracy. Americans remain heavily in-

'New Journalism' has taken the place of hard news

fluenced by the cultural revolution of the 1960s.

This led to a "New Journalism" that emphasizes a judgmental literary style and irreverent attitudes that allow things to be said that wouldn't or couldn't have been said in an earlier time. It produced changes in the hierarchical structure of newsrooms, giving great freedom and autonomy to writers at the expense of the editors who, in the past, imposed standardized literary forms and techniques on newspaper staffs.

The New York Times of the 1950s would never have permitted a "news" story on its front page such as Maureen Dowd's account last year of President Clinton's visit to Oxford University: "President Clinton returned today to the university where he didn't inhale, didn't get drafted and didn't get a degree."

Stylistic and conceptual freedom has spread, in varying degrees, to all sections of contemporary newspapers, along with "attitudes" and "advocacies," some more subtle than others.

The proliferation of judgmental columnists and critics, the increasing use of the personal pronouns "I" and "we" in accounts of events, the use of "news analysis" and "commentary" labels are evidence of the new approach to the news.

The rising social and educational levels of journalists and the corporate needs of newspaper companies have reinforced the trend.

Journalists are less content to serve as "objective" stenographers of life and institutional processes. Newspaper corporations, faced with declining readership and loss of advertising, have encouraged innovation and efforts to establish emotional links with the audience and to expand their roles as "village explainers" and "producers of meaning."

Even "service" or "consumer" journalism is by definition judgmental and subjective: the best place to eat, the best car to buy.

COVERAGE of politics and government is a diminishing part of the whole. For 20 years or more, newspaper companies have been pouring millions of dollars into more space and more staff for their style, local news, business, sports, arts, health, science and how-to-do-it sections.

The content of a serious paper such as The Washington Post today might surprise you. An analysis a few years back found that the main sections - national, foreign and local news - got only half the space devoted to business, style, sports, features, and so on. That trend has continued at many papers, especially in the expansion of business and financial news.

As a result, success and heroes are being celebrated constantly in the nongovernmental, nonpolitical sectors of society - business and financial people, sports, the arts, entertainment, literature, films and television. This has led, in the cultural world in particular, to new and positive images for gays and lesbians, women, blacks and non-whites in general.

In the broader world of "multiculturalism," new heroes and role models are promoted assiduously. As a single case in point, Nelson Mandela, South Africa's black president, has achieved the secular equivalent of sainthood.

Others are not too far behind. Myths aside, the people of the United States have rarely canonized their politicians, military leaders or bureaucrats.

Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, the Roosevelts and John Kennedy are exceptions whose reputations flourished far more in death than in life.

(The Washington Post)

The Jews are returning fire!

TEDDY PREUSS

NO one expects a zebra to change its stripes - or Jews to return fire. And that applies to Prime Minister Rabin's government, which "lost its temper." After keeping silent so long, why did the premier suddenly answer Likud leaders back and tell them what he thought of them?

To date, few leftists have succeeded in taking the road of invective paved by the right, though Yossi Sarid didn't let Ariel Sharon get away with accusing the premier of hating the settlers and everything else Jewish. But Rabin...

To tell the Likud that its wallowing in split blood is encouraging terrorism is a very serious charge; but the Likud has no right to grumble.

Menachem Begin was raised on national discipline, yet breached the consensus during the British Mandate. His policy was opposed by the majority, yet he proclaimed himself the man who had prevented civil war.

During the Knesset debate on German reparations, he harangued a large crowd, telling them that the police who were there to protect the Knesset building were carrying gas of the kind "which destroyed our brothers in Auschwitz."

During the Lebanon war, Begin threatened that when the fighting died down, he would demand a commission of enquiry into the opposition's conduct during hostilities, placing the blame for military failure on his rivals even though none except the Communists had dared lift a finger against his onslaught. On the contrary, some La-

bor members were more patriotic than the government demanded.

Begin's supporters publicly spread the "secret" that Shimon Peres owned shares in Tadiran, and the "truth" about his Arab mother. Now and then, Peres has flung this back in the Likud's teeth, but only about once a year, and then with difficulty.

BEGIN'S SUCCESSOR in the premiership, Yitzhak Shamir, initially used more restrained language. But as he encountered more plus along his path, his expressions became sharper, even toward fellow party members ("criminals"). Finally, he burst out against Labor, crying "Treason!" after one member met with a PLO man (post-Madrid).

Shamir didn't remember that during World War II, he had sent his men to Beirut to negotiate with Otto Werner von Hanting of the Third Reich's Foreign Office, to cooperate with the Nazis against the British. No one in Labor, even the most sharp-witted, has reminded him of this.

And they've kept quiet even when former finance minister Yoram ("proper economy") Aridor has written articles "analyzing" Shohat's economic failures and the extent of inflation.

They didn't fire back when those responsible for the 1983 bank shares fiasco raged against bailing out the kibbutzim and Kupat Holim, or when MK Limor Livnat moralized about integrity

and financial probity, or when MK Sharon wailed about the spilled blood and the negation of Judaism (what's that, anyway?) No, they were as quiet as mice.

So where's the wonder when mobs circulate with signs proclaiming "Rabin the murderer, Rabin the traitor!" and with cartoons depicting Rabin wearing a keffiyeh, and stickers showing him washing his hands of blood?

Why didn't they scream "Traitors!" when two Likud prime ministers engaged in that kind of talk? Psychologists say that people tend to attribute their own faults to their enemies, also acts they themselves have perpetrated, or intended to.

Thus the Arabs claimed that Israel plotted the diversion of the waters of the Litani River after the Syrians actually did try to deflect the sources of the Jordan to the Mediterranean. And they accuse Israel of genocide, after trying it themselves, not very successfully.

So we can understand why Aridor blames Shohat for inflation, why Livnat goes on about corruption, and why Shamir screams "Traitor!"

Had Rabin and his associates raised their voices a bit sooner, the Likud wouldn't have dared shout "Silence! People are asleep!" Their shock is quite natural, as is the Arabs' and the antisemites' over Israel not going like sheep to the slaughter.

If Jews fire back, it's just that, like Rabin, they have lost their senses.

The writer is a senior journalist with Davar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OMINOUS FUTURE

Sir, - We write in reaction to the constant stream of unsettling news from Israel on the unrelenting pressure of Arab demands for more influence and more power in the land of Israel. We belong to the Holocaust generation with memories reaching to the time of Jewish powerlessness, when Jews were being hunted like mad dogs, or at best tolerated as long as they did not flaunt their Jewishness too much.

Is this what we are heading for in Israel? Is the present generation of Israelis so devoid of historical memory that they cannot even imagine what it would be like to live in conditions of a subservient society with overlords dictating their views or their life-styles? Perhaps the young generation needs a wake-up call, and a few lessons in elements of self-interest, and self-preservation. Has the intoxication with freedom and the over-confidence born from past successful wars rendered them so completely oblivious of the

implications of physical concessions, that they believe themselves to be invincible even with the Arabs taking control of more and more key situations on the ground and in world councils?

How else is one to explain the passive behavior of the intellectual elements in view of completely irrational moves by the current government? How is it that Israelis who always followed the doctrine of pre-emptive strikes, kept their enemies off balance, and protected their own no matter where they were - now meekly give up every advantage, pass leadership of "peace" negotiations to an ambivalent Egyptian president, lobby the US Congress for help to Arafat, Jordan and Egypt, and turn on their own people in Judea, Samaria and Gaza? The entire posture of the country's leadership has become twisted and devoid of clear direction.

NICK AND BARBARA WELNER
Hamden, Connecticut

MISLEADING IMPRESSION

Sir, - On March 23, you published an article under the headline "Islamic council: halt digs on Temple Mount."

The article itself does not mention any digs on the Temple Mount (the Wakh has never permitted these, to the best of my knowledge), but rather "excavations along the Temple Mount walls" - otherwise known as the Western Wall tunnels, an area which is sacred to the Jewish people and of great historical importance to us. This area is not under Wakh jurisdiction.

BRACHA SLAE
Jerusalem.

WRONG PICTURE

Sir, - I greatly enjoyed the article by D'vora Ben Shaul about orchids in your issue of March 24. However, the picture accompanying the article was, to the best of my knowledge, that of a lily and not an orchid.

BETTY CITROEN
Netanya.

مكتبة الكمال

Propper: High trade deficit harms growth

THE country's high trade deficit casts a shadow on the economy's ability to continue its growth, Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said yesterday, following the publication of the country's balance of trade figures for the first three months of the year.

Last month's trade deficit was \$848.9 million.

Propper called on the government to take immediate measures to solve the problem.

"The problem of Israel's trade deficit, which is expected to reach \$11 billion this year, is one of the economy's most pressing problems," Propper said. "The government and Bank of Israel must take immediate action. Already in September 1993, we warned the government of a rise in the trade deficit. The recent

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

growth in the deficit is terrifying." Propper said the high trade deficit not only harms growth, but the Bank of Israel's and the government's ability to maintain stability and reduce the inflation rate. Propper said he does not understand their silence on the issue.

The association said the high trade deficit reflects a significant increase in the rate of imports and a slowdown in the rate of export growth.

According to Propper, the country won't be able to finance such a high rate of imports in the long run. He urged the government to slow down the economy's growth rate to reduce imports.



Propper: Government should take immediate action to solve the problem. (Yisrael Melubani)

The association has called an emergency meeting for tomorrow to discuss the implications of the high trade deficit on the economy.

Ben-Eliezer plans to open housing market to more builders

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HOUSING Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said yesterday he intends to open up the public building market to more construction companies.

Following the decision, several hundred more building companies are expected to work on state-initiated programs, ministry sources said.

Opening the construction market to more contractors will increase competition and help stabilize housing prices, Ben-Eliezer said.

Speaking at a meeting with contractors and public figures in Beersheba, Ben-Eliezer said "the construction market is in an upswing, and I want to harness the full production power of the building trade. So I issued instructions to increase the list of construction companies which

will be allowed to build housing as part of the ministry's construction program."

So far, there have been more than 9,000 housing starts of state-initiated programs since the beginning of the year, compared with 10,500 housing starts all of last year, Ben-Eliezer said.

He said there are currently 10 million square meters in various

stages of construction throughout the country, and he expects to break the construction record this year that was set in 1991.

Most of the apartments were built with a purchase commitment in advance, he said.

Ministry sources said there are currently 250 companies - chosen according to criteria formulated by the ministry - which are permitted to take part in the ministry's tenders.

Bank savings programs attract 30% fewer customers last month

JOSE ROSENFELD

BANK savings programs attracted 30.5 percent fewer deposits last month than in February, as the wave of redemptions from provident funds moderated during that period, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The savings programs accumulated a net NIS 786.2 million in

March, bringing this year's total to NIS 2.73 billion.

Index-linked programs, which promised attractive real yields, brought in NIS 919.6m. last month and NIS 3.07b. since the beginning of the year.

Foreign currency-linked savings plans continued to register withdrawals due to the weakness of the dollar in world markets.

Savers pulled out NIS 133.5m. from the foreign-currency linked programs last month and NIS 341.1m. since the beginning of the year.

Offshore oil drilling platform leaves for North Sea, despite court order to stay

RACHEL NEIMAN

A CONTROVERSIAL offshore oil drilling platform, leased by Isramco for use at the Jaffa Sea site, is well on its way to the North Sea, leaving a messy legal argument in its wake.

A temporary injunction, issued on Sunday by Judge Zvi Tal of the High Court of Justice, ordered Isramco and Energy Minister Gonen Segov to prevent the towing of the offshore drilling platform at the Jaffa Sea 3 site to another location until exploration there is completed.

Segov is visiting Egypt, but a statement issued by his office ex-

pressed concern at "the attempt to force a private commercial company to continue activity via a High Court order."

Segov has refused the petition, primarily the request that he answer or intervene as to Isramco's activity on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"It should be remembered that the energy minister is not involved and should not be responsible for house activity," he said.

The petition for the injunction, presented on Friday, asked Segov

to consider:

"Why he should not obligate Isramco to execute drilling at the Jaffa Sea 3 site; alternatively, why he should not request an explanation from Isramco as to measures taken in order to receive permission from the Defense Ministry for drilling at the Jaffa Sea 3 site; why he himself should not cause the Defense Ministry to grant permits to drill at the Jaffa Sea 3 site; and why he should not prevent the transfer of the drill platform from Israel."

Isramco notified the court on Monday that the association between itself and the owners of the platform had ended, and the platform had been let go some 10 days prior to the injunction.

"For this reason, it is out of our power to delay the drill platform's [departure], or to prevent its owners from removing it," the company said.

Isramco also said that to the best of its knowledge the platform was on its way to the North Sea "and no longer within the State of Israel's territorial offshore limits."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tourist arrivals jump 27% in March: Tourist arrivals jumped 27.1 percent last month to 197,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. During the first quarter of the year, there was a 13% rise in tourism compared with the same period last year.

The number of tourists entering the country after visiting Jordan soared 359.2% in March to 17,600, compared with 4,900 a year before. Tourists entering the country after visiting Egypt rose a more moderate 19.1% to 20,600.

Scitex, Adobe Systems agree to out-of-court settlement: Scitex and Adobe Systems have agreed to an out-of-court settlement of a patent dispute relating to "trapping technology" useful in color page editing.

The suit relates to a February 1994 patent infringement suit brought by Scitex against graphic software house Aldus, which has since been acquired by Adobe. Under the settlement, Scitex and Adobe will grant the other immunity from suing one another for an agreed upon time.

RADA Electronics Industries has received the Israel Standards Institute's sanction that its quality control systems meet international ISO9001 standard.

LanOptics awarded \$400,000 contract: LanOptics has been awarded a \$400,000 contract to install a Token Ring network at the UK offices of the Laurentian financial group.

The company has developed a unique technology, Jitter Watch, which compensates for signal degradation caused by old or low-grade cables.

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan planners warn recovery could be hit by yen: Japan's economic planners warned on Tuesday that the nation's fragile recovery from four years of stagnation could be smothered by the mighty yen. The economy is still recovering moderately, but could be damaged by recent currency volatility, the government's Economic Planning Agency said in its monthly report.

Private economists, meanwhile, are set to revise down their economic growth estimates for this fiscal year to near one percent, far below the official 2.8% growth forecast. *Reuters*

Michelin turns corner in '94: Michelin, the world's biggest tire manufacturer, confirmed yesterday that it swung back into the black in 1994, earning FR 1.29 billion after reporting heavy losses the year before. Michelin attributed its rebound to a recovery in the European car and truck markets, which helped boost tire sales 9.5 percent, and lower expenses resulting from a cost-reduction program put in place two years ago. *Reuters*



Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Ehud Kaufman, director of the ministry's international division, tour the Great Wall with members of their delegation and the Israeli Embassy. Shohat is in China meeting with government officials in a bid to further develop economic ties. *(Reuters)*

Mei Eden announces increase in net profits to NIS 9.1 million

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

MEI EDEN announced an increase in annual net profits to NIS 9.1 million from NIS 7.1m. in 1993, while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.78 from NIS 0.62.

Annual revenues went up to NIS 97.7m. from NIS 86.6m., while gross profit margins increased to 68.9% from 64.3%.

Angel Bakeries reported a drop in net profits to NIS 66,000 from NIS 3m. in 1993, while earnings per share slumped to NIS 0.13 from NIS 0.57.

Revenues fell to NIS 98.74m. from NIS 102m. The drop in revenues was attributed to lower prices,

the result of more competition. Sales to the IDF and the police also fell but are expected to increase after winning an IDF tender.

The company has invested NIS 40m. and has begun construction of two new baking plants, in Jerusalem and Lod.

Export Investment suffered a decrease in annual net profits to NIS 6.7m. from NIS 10.9m. in 1993, while earnings per share dropped to NIS 0.67 from NIS 1.12.

Revenues fell to NIS 9.3m. from NIS 14.1m.

Zurich Insurance buys Kemper for \$2 billion

LONG GROVE, Illinois (Reuters) - Kemper Corp., which has been on the auction block for a year, said yesterday it agreed to be acquired by an investor group comprised of Zurich Insurance Group of Switzerland and an investment partnership in a deal valued at more than \$2 billion. News of the deal spurred Kemper's stock \$5 higher to

\$46.375 in the secondary market. It did not open on the New York Stock Exchange, where it closed Monday at \$41.375. "The Kemper board of directors unanimously concluded that this transaction is in the best interest of our stockholders," Kemper's chairman and chief executive officer, David Mathis, said in a statement.

'Ministry blocking plans to reduce egg surpluses'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Treasury is blocking plans to reduce surpluses in the poultry and egg sector, Poultry Breeders Association general secretary Yitzhak Tovili said yesterday.

The Poultry Breeders Association has appealed to the Treasury to stand by its obligation to publish regulations on buying quotas in the poultry sector and continue regulating quotas on egg distributors.

The breeders said regulation is needed to prevent the emergence of a black market in the sector.

Tovili said the Treasury has not published regulations on the purchase of poultry quotas.

The breeders are also urging the government to continue its efforts to help the egg sector.

In January the Treasury agreed to cover the cost of destroying egg surpluses, up to a maximum

sum of NIS 20m. In the first three months of the year, the Treasury spent about NIS 4.5m. in eliminating egg surpluses.

The association said egg prices are expected to increase by four agorot per egg soon, due to the Health Ministry's recent regulations on collecting eggs and packaging them.

The association said 1.5 agorot of the increment will go to distributors, while the remaining 2.5 agorot will go to growers.

Tovili said the Treasury has plans to take away farmers' subsidy and transfer the money to a fund to remove egg surpluses.

Tovili said egg growers will prefer to sell their produce on the black market if the government creates a situation whereby farmers are forced to finance the state's removal of egg surpluses.

If Pessah is around the corner, it must be time for Automotor '95

THE Automotor motor show at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds has become something of a tradition during Pessah.

"We've finally reached the stage when Pessah would not be Pessah without Automotor," boasts organizer Doron Geller,

who notes that this is the seventh year in a row the show is being held during the holiday.

Geller has invested more than \$1.5 million in Automotor '95, which will be held from Sunday until Wednesday.

He predicts more than 300,000 will visit the show. To attract such big crowds year after year, Automotor must be doing something right, despite perennial criticism that it has "more a carnival than a business atmosphere."

Geller is the first to concede that after six years he has still not built Automotor into anything resembling motor shows in Paris, Geneva, Tokyo or Frankfurt.

Ninety percent of the spectators at the world's major motor shows are in the industry. However, most of the crowd which besieges the Tel Aviv Fair-

JOEL GORDIN

grounds simply comes to marvel at the sights.

Geller says this, in fact, is the secret of his success.

Automotor gives those who would never get to the world's major motor shows an opportunity to see Ferraris, Lamborghinis and the like, he says.

He does, however, claim that Automotor is of growing interest to those in the trade. Most major local dealers and suppliers of motor accessories have bought stands.

At any rate, the star attractions at Automotor '95 will be a selection of priceless prototypes designed by the greatest automobile architects, such as Pininfarina and Giugiaro Giugiaro.

Among them will be: • The BLITZ, an environment-friendly automobile of the next

century, is designed by Bertoni. Its two electric engines allow the driver to accelerate from 0 to 100 k.p.h. in six seconds. It only weighs 670 kilograms.

• The NAZCA AM, designed by Giugiaro, is a perfect combination of sport and saloon auto.

It is made of a secret, high-tech material, and its weight without engine is 60kg. The BMW 12-cylinder engine turns it into a rocket capable of "flying" at 290 k.p.h.

• The Ferrari 512TR two-seater, designed by Pininfarina, has an aluminum body and five-liter engine.

It can deliver a wallop of 430 horsepower, capable of taking the car from 0 to 100 k.p.h. in 4.8 seconds to a maximum speed of 314 k.p.h.

Models from Lamborghini, Maserati and Bugatti will also be on display. A big draw in the

automobile showrooms will be the four versions of the Jaguar, which have recently gone on sale here.

At the motorcycle/moped/scooter displays, Kawasaki will show off its 600cc Ninja ZX 6R, fresh off the production lines in Japan.

The booths offering motor accessories will cover three halls. In addition, there will be displays of four-wheel driving and of motorcycle stunts, including a demonstration by the internationally-acclaimed Lucky Strike motorcycle team.

The police will also have a stand, with the emphasis on road-safety techniques.

For each of the four days, the show will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The entrance fee is NIS 34 for an adult; NIS 28 for children, soldiers in uniform and members of groups.

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money market

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US dollar	NIS 2.9750 + 0.34%
Sterling	NIS 4.7426 + 0.08%
Mark	NIS 2.1092 - 0.21%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

NYSE

Index	11,400.00	Change	+11.75
Volume	1,114,000		
NYSE stocks	1,114,000		
Unchanged	1,114,000		
Declined	1,114,000		

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3,190.9	Change	-13.3
London	1,114,000		
Paris	1,114,000		
Frankfurt	1,114,000		

Israeli stocks in NY

Company	Price	Change
Amir	10.125	+0.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

Commodity Trading Ltd.

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	10.125	+0.125
Gold	10.125	+0.125

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	10.125	+0.125
Gold	10.125	+0.125

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	10.125	+0.125
Gold	10.125	+0.125

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	10.125	+0.125
Gold	10.125	+0.125

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	10.125	+0.125
Gold	10.125	+0.125

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			
Company	Price	Change	Volume
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125

Two-sided trading			
Company	Price	Change	Volume
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125

SOURCE: **ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125
Amir	10.125	+0.125	10.125

Teva helps lift share prices

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Two-Sided Index	162.95	+1.81%
Maof Index	164.21	+1.76%
Karam Index	131.41	+1.19%

TEVA proved good medicine for the TASE, which went up 1.62 percent yesterday on NIS 71.3 million turnover.

The pharmaceutical company rose 7.5% on NIS 16.4m. turnover, following an 8% rise on NASDAQ the day before.

The Two-Sided Index rose 1.81% on NIS 53.4m. turnover to close at 162.95.

The Maof Index was up 1.76% to 164.21 on NIS 381m. trade volume, while the Karam Index increased 1.19% on NIS 11.5m. turnover to 131.41.

Danbar Technologies was up 10%, Elkanit increased 9.9%, Aura rose 9.8% and Vitalgo moved upwards 9.7%.

Spancrete and Yozma both rose more than 7%.

Koor slipped 0.5% on NIS 3.78m. turnover, Bezek rose 1% on NIS 1m. turnover, IDB Holdings was up 0.8% on NIS 1.8m. turnover, Clal Electronics was up 1.7% on NIS 1.2m. turnover and Industrial Buildings increased 0.9% on NIS 1.26m. turnover.

Abjact jumped a dramatic 10.4%, JOEL was up 3.7%, Isramco fell 4.3% and the general oil exploration sector slipped 0.14%.

The day's big losers were Data Automation, which fell 10%; Gamma Communications and Tiv Textiles, which went down 9.9%; and Ma'ariv Holdings, which slipped 6.1%.

The general bond market rose 0.11% to 140.02. Government bonds also rose 0.11% to 139.42.

Dollar-linked bonds increased 32% to 139.26. CPI-linked bonds were up 0.9% to 139.94.

FTSE Index falls 13.3 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Blue-chip shares closed weaker, depressed by lower index futures in relatively light trading, deprived of direction from a mixed Wall Street, despite encouraging US producer price numbers.

The FTSE Index closed 13.3 points off at 3,190.9.

FRANKFURT - German shares slipped in post-bourse trading as the bond market extended losses and the dollar eased against the mark.

The 30-share DAX Index fell to 1,979 in post-bourse business, off 1.81 points, after a bounce close of 1,993.73, up 21.44.

PARIS - French shares, weighed down by weaker bond prices, drifted in late trading to close near their session lows.

The CAC-40 Index closed down 11.61, or 0.62 percent, at 1,869.31.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended nearly unchanged after mixed trading in a tight range.

The all-share SPI Index closed up 1.31 points at 1,667.23.

TOKYO - Stocks ended ahead for the second day in a row, again driven higher by purely technical factors rather than by fundamentals.

The Nikkei share average index advanced 105.79 points, or 0.65%, to 16,268.88.

HONG KONG - Stocks ended moderately firmer in quiet trading.

The benchmark Hang Seng Index added 44.82 points to close at 8,514.60.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed firmer, as blue-chip issues led the market higher after a weak gold price caused shares to fall early in the session. The all ordinaries index finished 10.1 points firmer at 1,992.6.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares finished off their lows as buyers appeared when gold edged above \$390 an ounce and world markets recovered.

The overall index was 42.5 points off at 5,342.8, the industrial index 31.5 down at 6,665.1 and the gold index 24.3 lower at 1,440.2.

Dow falls slightly

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The stock market finished mostly lower yesterday after surrendering early gains, despite a reassuring inflation report.

Stocks started out on solid ground but succumbed to selling as the bond market deteriorated. When bonds recovered, however, stocks stayed stuck at depressed levels.

Investors welcomed a government report showing US wholesale inflation turned in its best performance in five months as energy and food costs declined, helping to keep the overall price level from rising at all in March.

The Labor Department said its Producer Price Index was unchanged last month after posting 0.3 percent increases in both January and February.

The unexpectedly benign inflation reading - many economists predicted a slight uptick - prompted analysts to forecast that the Federal Reserve will refrain from further interest rate increases in the near future.

The central bank embarked on an anti-inflation campaign in early 1994 that involved gradually raising short-term rates to slow economic growth. Recent signs that moderating economic activity is being accompanied by mild inflation have suggested to some analysts that the Fed has accomplished its mission.

But bonds and stocks were knocked from their peaks of the day by reports that a Federal Reserve governor implied it would be wrong to assume that the US central bank has indefinitely put its credit-tightening on hold.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 11.07 to 4,187.08.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 10 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,067 up, 1,120 down and 772 unchanged.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.63 to 823.89.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index fell 0.50 to 470.72.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFr
STERLING	2.206/15	13.06/18	1.3796/42	5.8868/16
YEN	1.6742/74	0.7504/18	1.3796/42	5.8868/16
SFR	1.2126/45	0.5343/43	72.50/4N	4.2265/66
FFr	0.2865/70	0.1284/86	17.08/13	0.2380/65

Madrid crushes Limoges, 62-49

ZARAGOZA (Reuters) - Spain's Real Madrid crushed Limoges of France 62-49 in the first semifinal of the European champion clubs' basketball Final Four tournament last night.

The height and strength of Madrid's Joe Arlauckas and Arvidas Sabonis proved too much for the French, for whom Americans Tim Kempton and Michael Young were disappointing.

In tomorrow's final, Madrid will face Olympiakos, 58-52 victors over Panathinaikos in the second semifinal late last night.

Limoges took an early lead against nervous opponents, but as the half wore on, the Spaniards gained control with playmaker Jose Antunez outstanding.

They stretched in front 17-10 and Limoges' Serb coach Bozidar Maljkovic decided to call for a

time-out to regroup. But the tactic did not pay off and Lithuanian Sabonis, at 2.21 meters the tallest man at the court, scored a 3-pointer straight after play resumed.

Ismael Santos added another in the penultimate minute of the half, helping Madrid to a 27-19 interval lead.

Limoges came out fighting after the break but Young, the French team's top player this season, could not find a way past the tight marking of Javier Garcia Coll.

The Spaniards, who have not won this tournament since the early 1980s, continued to dominate and opened up their biggest lead of the night at 53-32.

Sabonis limped off with nine minutes to go but by then Real Madrid had the game in the bag.

Mavs' playoff hopes dim after loss to Warriors

DALLAS (AP) - Latrell Sprewell scored 30 points and Chris Mullin added 26, half of them in the third quarter, as the Golden State Warriors hurt the Dallas Mavericks' playoff chances with a 123-112 decision Monday night.

Dallas fell 2½ games behind the Denver Nuggets in the race for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot. Denver took sole possession of eighth place with a 114-107 victory over Minnesota.

Jamal Mashburn had 29 points and Popeye Jones added 21 to pace the Mavericks, who won eight of their previous 11 and five of their last six at home to move into playoff contention. Dallas' Lorenzo Williams contributed 14 points and a career-high 19 rebounds.

Clifford Rozier had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors.

Nuggets 114, Timberwolves 107. Reggie Miller scored 13 of his 20 points in the third quarter to help visiting Denver take over the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf also had 20 before going out with a leg bruise while 5-31 left as the Nuggets snipped a three-game slide and moved a half-game ahead of idle Sacramento in the race for the final post-season berth.

Denver has seven regular-season games remaining, while Sacramento has eight.

Hornets 119, Celtics 95. Alonzo Mourning scored 25 points and Hersey Hawkins had 23 as host Charlotte rebounded from a horrid outing and ended Boston's five-game winning streak.

The Hornets could only get better after their 97-68 whipping at Indiana.

on Sunday. Their shooting improved from 33.8 percent off just 22 field goals against the Pacers to 60.8 percent on 48-for-79 shooting.

Boston, fighting to hold onto the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference, had an offensive cooling-off after 61 percent shooting in the first quarter. By game's end, Boston had shot 48.1 percent.

After losing 17 of its first 19 to the Celtics, Charlotte has taken eight of the last nine, including three of the four meetings this season.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Orlando	54	21	.720	-
*New York	44	28	.611	4.5
Boston	32	44	.421	22.5
Miami	29	48	.375	25
New Jersey	28	49	.363	26
Philadelphia	21	54	.280	33
Washington	18	57	.240	36

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Indiana	49	27	.643	-
*Charlotte	48	29	.621	0.5
*Chicago	41	34	.547	7.5
Cleveland	40	35	.533	8.5
Atlanta	37	38	.493	11.5
Memphis	30	45	.400	18.5
Detroit	27	47	.363	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*San Antonio	56	18	.757	-
*Utah	53	22	.707	3.5
*Houston	44	31	.587	12.5
Portland	39	36	.520	17.5
Denver	38	38	.500	18.5
Dallas	38	41	.480	21.5
Minnesota	20	55	.267	36.5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Seattle	53	21	.716	-
*Phoenix	53	22	.707	0.5
*LA Lakers	47	28	.627	6.5
Portland	39	36	.520	17.5
Sacramento	35	39	.473	18
Golden State	34	31	.520	22.5
LA Clippers	16	59	.213	37.5

Monday's Results:

Charlotte 119, Boston 97
Denver 114, Minnesota 107
Golden State 123, Dallas 112

SCOREBOARD

BRITISH SOCCER: Last night's Premier League results - Ipswich 0, Queens' Park Rangers 1; Tottenham 2, Manchester City 1; Division One - Bolton 0, Luton 0. Monday's results: Chelsea 1, Wimbledon 1. NBL - Monday's results: Montreal 2, New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 4, Ottawa 3; Calgary 5, San Jose 3.

Boon, Mark Waugh shore up Aussies

ST. JOHN'S (AP) - David Boon and Mark Waugh added an unbeaten 91 for the third wicket to shore up Australia on a rainy Monday, the third day of the second cricket Test against the West Indies.

On a day when 56 overs were lost to rain in three separate stoppages, Australia ended on 134 for two, a lead of 90 going into yesterday's rest day. Boon was undefeated 60 and Waugh 42.

Fast bowler Courtney Walsh, West Indies' hero in the first innings with six wickets, struck twice in the early play. Australia's openers had added just six runs to their overnight score of 16 when Walsh removed their captain, Mark Taylor. He was out hooking for the second time in the match, this time gloving to wicket-keeper Junior Murray down the leg side.

The first rain interruption came just 15 minutes later with Australia 31 for one. Umpires Steve Bucknor of Jamaica and David Shepherd of England called an early lunch and play resumed under overcast skies 25 minutes late after the break.

Showers were imminent, but Jamaican Walsh broke through again in last of the 14 balls possible.

He claimed the wicket of Michael Slater, magnificently caught by Richie Richardson at third slip, leaping full stretch to clutch the chance one-handed, wide and low to his right.

Slater made 18 and his dismissal left the tourists struggling at 43 for two, still one run short of erasing the first innings deficit.

Boon and Mark Waugh carefully negotiated a further 20-minute burst of play between lunch and tea when the West Indies fast bowlers, led by Walsh, were firing on all cylinders.

They saw off the threat and blossomed as the sun returned when they resumed for the final time at 60 for two. An hour and 25 minutes remained to face 21 overs and the experienced pair shifted the initiative back to Australia.

Boon, in his 99th Test, and Waugh, in his 46th, saw off Walsh and took to the less testing offerings of the Benjamins and Winston.

Boon has faced 99 balls and hit eight fours in 136 minutes at the crease. Waugh's needed 68 balls for his 42, which included five fours and a hooked six off Walsh, and has lasted 110 minutes.

Walsh's two wickets for 39 runs off 15 overs represented the only successes for the West Indies.



TO THE BOUNDARY - Aussie batsman David Boon pulls West Indies pace man Curtly Ambrose for four. (AP)

Former Pakistan captain accused of bribery

Australian cricket officials have taken sworn statements from players that contained additional details about alleged bribes offered by former Pakistan captain Salim Malik, the head of the Australian Cricket Board said yesterday.

ACB chief executive officer Graham Hallish said the players, Mark Waugh, Shane Warne and Tim May, provided the statements to ACB legal adviser Graeme Johnson.

He said the statements containing "more detail about the matter" would be forwarded on to a Pakistan Cricket Control Board inquiry through the International Cricket Council (ICC).

It has been alleged that Malik offered Waugh \$50,000 to be dismissed cheaply in the first Test between Pakistan and Australia in Karachi last September.

Warne and May were also allegedly offered similar amounts by the Pakistan captain, who was later stripped of the captaincy. He has denied the allegations.

Big baseball bucks - going, going, gone!

NEW YORK (AP) - The careers of Teddy Higuera, Danny Darwin, Paul Assenmacher, Roger McDowell and Rob Murphy will continue. The big bucks, however, will not.

Those pitchers, plus Chris Sabo, became the latest players to take big pay cuts Monday as free agents again paid the price for finding jobs.

"I figured if you didn't get signed by the middle of the week, you weren't going to get signed," Sabo said after joining the Chicago White Sox.

"It wasn't a bidding war. Money is not a big thing. I'm not motivated by money. I just wanted to play. With all the strike stuff, I knew it would be a tough market."

Sabo, 33, signed a 1-year contract for \$550,000 after making \$2 million last season with Baltimore.

Sabo hit .256 with 11 home runs and 42 RBIs for the Orioles. The White Sox, who lost Julio Franco to Japan, got Sabo to be their designated hitter after missing out on Mark Grace.

"To be honest with you, I didn't have much of a choice. I wanted to go back to the National League, but it didn't work out," he said.

With teams trying to save money, many players have seen their salaries trimmed by more than \$1m in the last week.

Darwin, 39, signed a 1-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays for \$300,000. He made

\$2.4m last season while going 7-5 with a 6.30 ERA for Boston.

Darwin, slowed by a rib-cage injury last year, will fit into the rotation with newly acquired David Cone, Pat Hentgen, Juan Guzman and Al Leiter.

"I took a pay cut, but the money was not the issue," he said. "My biggest concern was being able to pitch again."

Hentgen and Leiter are among the Blue Jays eligible for salary arbitration, meaning the team did not want to spend much more to add a pitcher such as Darwin.

They had been interested in pursuing trade possibilities for high-priced ace Bret Saberhagen and

Randy Johnson.

"From a payroll point of view, we're maxed out," Toronto general manager Gord Ash said.

Higuera, 36, agreed to a minor league contract with the San Diego Padres that would pay him \$275,000 if he makes the major league team. He was paid \$3.25m last year in going 1-5 with a 7.06 ERA for Milwaukee.

Higuera, a former 20-game winner for the Brewers, has been hurt for several seasons by rotator cuff problems. He worked out early this spring for Baltimore, but decided to sign with San Diego.

Fernando Valenzuela and Bill

Krueger also have joined the Padres in the last week. Along with Higuera, they're all expected to compete for a spot as San Diego's fifth starter.

Assenmacher, 34, signed with Cleveland. He got one year at \$700,000 after making \$2.25m while going 2-1 with one save and a 3.55 ERA for the White Sox.

McDowell, 34, signed with Texas for \$500,000. He was 0-3 with a 5.23 ERA for the Dodgers last season and made \$1.25 million.

Murphy, 34, signed a minor league deal with Los Angeles for \$250,000. He made \$950,000 last year with the New York Yankees.

Reliever Jeff Russell returned to Texas today, completing a roundabout journey that began when the Rangers traded the 33-year-old right-hander to Oakland in 1992.

Russell, who has 163 saves in 12 seasons, was 0-5 with 12 saves before Boston dealt him to Cleveland last July 1. He was 0-1 with five saves for the Indians.

Late last night, outfielder Brett Butler and the New York Mets agreed to a one-year contract worth \$2m - \$1.5m less than his 1994 salary with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Butler, 37, considered one of the best leadoff hitters in the game, hit .314 last season with eight homers, 33 RBIs and 27 stolen bases in 417 at-bats. He has a .290 average in 14 seasons, hitting .300 or better four times.

Global tops Cubs

YITZHAK ATKIN

GLOBAL Financial defeated Shomrat Cubs 17-9 in The Jerusalem Post Softball League behind the solid hitting of Bruce Maddy-Weiss, Shimon Shubich and Brian Aron. Ami Baron picked up the win.

For Shomrat, Bob Samuels had 2 hits.

Zionists 24

The Zionists' attack was led by Boaz Detweiler who had 4 RBIs. Miki Reisinger had 3 RBIs and Mike Kresse had 3 hits. Eli Pinchovsky picked up the win.

For Aztec, David Gior had 2 hits.

Crazy Richards 11

Ma'ale Adumim 3

The Crazyes were led by John Miller and Ken Fuet who each went 3 for 4. Jose Fernandez went 4 for 5 including a towering home run to center. For Ma'ale Adumim, Chaim Bel-desaire had 2 hits.

Archaeological Seminars 7

Big Apple Pizza 3

Ron Gorodetsky picked up a first win for the Diggers, helped by a 3-run homer by Kevin Rasker and Jeremy Schwartz's 2 hits. Howie Litz had a 2-run triple to lead the Pizza slingers.

Norman's Steakhouse 20

Aztec Glomar 4

Winning pitcher Yehuda Aspler combined with Shalom Menorah to shut down the Aztecs. At bat, Menorah went 3 for 4 to help Norman's to their first victory of the season. For Glomar, Mike Milo and Ami Ben-Zion had two hits apiece.

National Team 26

Kibbutz Gezer 2

Hurlers Eli Pinchovsky and Tito Slomovici easily defeated the Gezerites. Blair Portnoy homered twice, and Ben Benick hit a grand slam for the Nationals.

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HOUSEHOLD HELP

MARY POP

Christians sponsor 50th aliya flight

ELIOT ZIMELMAN
KIEV

YESTERDAY'S El Al flight No. 6652 from Kiev seemed just like any of the other 20-25 monthly Jewish Agency flights transporting new immigrants from Ukraine to Israel. It did not even seem so unusual that some 50 people waving Israeli flags welcomed the 180 immigrants as they disembarked from the plane.

What made this flight different from all other flights, however, was that it was the 50th aliya flight sponsored by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem (ICEJ), and the newcomers were Christian.

Since June, 1990, the ICEJ has picked up the tab on 50 flights from Ukraine, and has also sponsored the "Exodus" program, which buses Jews from Ukraine's outlying areas to Kiev's Borispol Airport on the eve of their aliya.

"The bus service gives immigrants more than just a seat," said Sib Siebesma, 31, the Dutch coordinator of Exodus in Kiev. "We realize what the immigrants go through in leaving friends and families, so we try to provide them with a little luxury on their last day here."

Besides door-to-door transportation, the 14 ICEJ volunteers in Ukraine load and unload the immigrants' luggage, provide them with hot drinks for the up to one day journey to Kiev, help them fill out customs forms, and are there for any last minute needs they may have before taking off for Israel.

The Jewish Agency's representative in Kiev, Yitzhak Yovabnik, is very happy with the work that Siebesma and his staff have done for nearly half of the 45,000-50,000 im-

migrants, who have arrived from Ukraine since 1990.

"I just give Sib the list of olim from a particular town and the day they are leaving the country, and he takes care of the rest," Yovabnik said.

Yulia Kapilova, one of those on yesterday's flight, was picked up on Monday by Exodus, along with her mother, aunt, and twin sons, from Cherkasy, 200 km. from Kiev.

"It's hard to leave, and I'm concerned about what work I'll be doing when I get to Israel," she said halfway into the three-hour journey to the airport. "Cherkasy was once a Jewish city, but now there are so few Jews left. It's time for us to leave."

Kapilova, who had heard of the work done by ICEJ before her journey, was not the least bit concerned that Christians were helping her move to the Jewish homeland. She even had attended a concert of Jewish music sponsored by the group in Cherkasy a few months ago.

The group of volunteers in Ukraine is supported by the ICEJ's Soviet Jewry Department, coordinated by Jim Schutz, an American who has lived in Israel for more than eight years. "Jews who come to Israel with a positive attitude will have a better chance to succeed," Schutz told the 17 immigrants from Cherkasy and Smela aboard the bus shortly before arriving in Kiev.

So while members of the ICEJ celebrate Easter this Sunday, they will also celebrate the fact that they were able to provide 180 immigrants with a Pessah gift that will last well beyond the seven-day holiday.



A man and some children watch as his kitchen utensils are dipped in boiling water on a Jerusalem sidewalk yesterday to make them kosher for Pessah use. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Bosnian refugees receive permanent resident status

DAVID RUDGE

MORE than two years after fleeing the bloody battles in their homeland, a group of Bosnian refugees given a safe haven in Israel were yesterday granted the status of permanent residents, with the rights of new immigrants.

"It is a very emotional moment for me," said 18-year-old Anisa Mehic after receiving her Israeli identity card at a ceremony at the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) field school at Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael.

Mehic and her family were among the 83 Bosnian Muslims who arrived, bewildered but happy to be alive and safe, here in February 1993. She has since learned Hebrew and is studying business management.

Asmir Mehic, another of the refugees, recalled the situation prior to their arrival. "When the war broke out in Bosnia I was in Sarajevo, studying at university. That's when I saw what war really means and I knew I had to find a way out of the city."

"I went back to my home town and the fighting came there and again I had to run away. I was in Croatia for some time with members of my family, where we had very bad times and we had to hide from the police," said the 25-year-old student.

"When we came to Ma'agan Michael (where all the refugees were originally housed) it was like paradise. There was no war, no police around us and no fear. We felt secure with a place to stay, a place to eat, somewhere to sleep," he said.

It has not been easy for all of the refugees adapting to life in Israel, while longing for their relatives and friends elsewhere. About a year after arriving, 23 families decided to leave and join the Bosnian community in an autonomous region in Slovakia.

The remaining 14 families, 46 people in all, have been living at

Kibbutz Beit Oren, and several have now got full time jobs, while others are studying.

"We expected to stay for about a year and then we would be able to go back to Bosnia, but the war is not ending. I still hope to go back one day, but it doesn't look as if it will be very soon," said Asmir Mehic.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who initiated the airlift of the refugees to Israel and has been dealing with them ever since, presented the Bosnian refugees with their new ID cards.

Sarid stressed, however, that although the refugees were being given the most precious gift of a state could give, thanks were also due to them. "It's no secret that Israel goes through difficult periods from time to time, and has suffered casualties from inhuman acts. But now you give us the opportunity to show the considerate, and humane side of Israeli society, and for that I want to thank you," said Sarid.

Lubrani: Hizbullah would not survive peace

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH will cease to exist as a military force if peace is reached between Israel and Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on south Lebanon, said yesterday.

Lubrani, who spoke to reporters at the inauguration of a new school in Marjayoun in the security zone, said that in such a case Hizbullah was likely to end up "at best a political party."

He also expressed the hope that by then the current regime in Iran,

which supplies Hizbullah with funds, arms and ideology, would no longer be in control. Nevertheless, he indicated there was still a long way to go before the downfall of the ayatollahs in Iran.

Lubrani was one of the main guests at the inauguration of the new school in Marjayoun, intended for high school pupils. Funding for the \$250,000 school was supplied by Israel as part of the civil aid assis-

tance to security zone residents.

Scores of people, including South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, the head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit Brig. Gen. Giora Inbar, senior IDF and SLA officers and local dignitaries from the Christian township and its environs, also attended the ceremony.

Lahad told reporters that despite Hizbullah's ongoing attacks and recent losses suffered by the SLA, morale was still high. He noted that the SLA was an army and like any military force it periodically suffered casualties.

Lahad charged that the greater anguish and concern was caused by the indiscriminate shelling by Hizbullah of civilian areas.

Hizbullah's military arm, the Islamic Resistance, is maintaining its pressure on the zone via daily attacks, particularly on SLA targets, combined with an incessant propaganda campaign.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One dead, three hurt in road accident

One man was killed and three others suffered moderate to serious injuries yesterday morning when a van slammed into a truck at the Davrat intersection near Afula. The accident caused a major traffic jam. There have been a large number of fatal accidents on the road recently, mostly involving drivers trying to pass illegally and other incidents in which drivers failed to use enough caution. *Itm*

Etzion held for trying to enter Temple Mount

Convicted Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion was detained yesterday for attempting to pray on the Temple Mount, in violation of regulations permitting only Muslim worship there. Police, which forbid Jews to pray on the Temple Mount for security reasons, said four other members of Etzion's group Hai Vekayam were also detained. They were released later. "We will continue to fight for the right of Jews to pray on the Temple Mount," said Etzion, who was jailed in the early 1980s for planning to blow up the Temple Mount mosques. *Itm*

Injunction issued against Jaffa construction

The High Court of Justice yesterday issued a temporary injunction barring the two companies involved in construction of an apartment block in Jaffa from continuing work until a petition filed by the Manof Center for Jewish Information is heard. *Itm*

Gov't opposes new anti-noise legislation

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation, chaired by Justice Minister David Liba'i, decided yesterday to oppose a private member's bill, initiated by MK Ya'acov Sheffi (Labor), which would ban singing, instrumental music, and similar noise-making activities in any residential building or in an outdoor area which is not enclosed on all sides. Current law bans such activity between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The committee decided that Sheffi's bill goes too far in limiting individual freedom. *Itm*

Shmulevitz due back next week

Chief prosecution witness Ya'acov Shmulevitz is expected to return to Israel next Tuesday to continue testifying in the trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri. Shmulevitz was returned to Switzerland - where he is being held on fraud charges - in the middle of his testimony. *Itm*

Two sentenced for fixing soccer games

Arye and Hillel Reuveni, former members of the management of the Hakoah Maccabi Ramat Gan soccer team convicted of fixing matches, were sentenced to four and six months in prison, respectively, by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. As part of a plea bargain, Judge Nira Lidsky converted the sentences to community service.

Ramon accused of using Histadrut funds for politics

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon also used Histadrut funds and facilities for political purposes, and was part of the system he is now branding as corrupt, Labor council secretaries charged yesterday.

At a meeting with Ramon, the secretaries accused him of being a partner to the acts and system for which former Histadrut leaders are being investigated, at Ramon's initiative.

Labor council secretaries' leader Pini Kabbalo "reminded" Ramon that he too used Histadrut and labor council facilities when he ran in the Labor Party primary. Ramon retorted: "I did not use any facilities. I went wherever I was invited to appear." He also said the acts being investigated are "alleged forgery, crime and corruption of the worst sort."

He told the labor council secretaries that only one fifth - some 300,000 - of the country's salaried 1.5 million workers are Histadrut members. He accused the secretaries of not doing enough to recruit members for the Histadrut. Kabbalo responded that it is hard to market a product which Ramon himself denounces every day on television as "the center of all the thieves and corrupt functionaries."

Ramon said the secretaries must present the Histadrut proudly as an institution clearing out the criminal acts.

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